REPORT

LABOUR IMMIGRATION INTO ASSAM

FOR THE YEAR

1892.

SHILLONG:

PRINTED AT THE ASSAM SECRETARIAT PRINTING OFFICE.

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REPORT ON LABOUR IMMIGRATION INTO ASSAM FOR THE YEAR 1892.

CHAPTER I.

IMMIGRATION.

Classification of immigrants.

The classification of immigrants for the purposes of the present report follows that adopted in previous reports, but the necessary steps are being taken to give effect to a suggestion made by the Government of India in paragraph 4 of Revenue and Agricultural Department Resolution No. 2788-2790—66, dated the 28th November 1892, that the forms from which the figures are compiled should be altered so as to show more clearly the exact facts respecting free immigration to the Assam and Surma Valleys, respectively. With this view district officers have been instructed in future reports to exhibit the number of immigrants (including dependents) under the following heads :

(1) Act coolies not free up to the labour districts, *i.e.*, who have contracted in the district of recruitment—
  (*a*) Sardári coolies.
  (*b*) Contractors' coolies.

(2) Act coolies who are free up to the labour districts—
  (*a*) Contracting at Dhubri.
  (*b*) Contracting in the actual labour district.

(3) Non-Act free.

Provincial figures.

2. The following table compares the immigration of all classes of coolies into the province during the past two years :

		1891.	1892.	Increase or decrease.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Act ...	Sardári adults ...	9,241	13,513	+4,272	+46·2
	Contractors' adults ...	16,071	14,942	−1,129	− 7·0
Non-Act...	Adults ...	12,627	13,347	+ 720	+ 5·7
Total ...	...	37,939	41,802	+3,863	+10·1
Children ...	...	11,969	14,248	+2,279	+19·0
Grand total ...	...	49,908	56,050	+6,142	+12·3

It will thus be seen that, while for the province generally a considerable increase in immigration took place under the head of sardári adults and in the case of children, the increase was less marked under the head of non-Act adults, and there was an actual decrease in the case of contractors' adults. No special explanation can be given of the increased immigration, which was probably due to the opening of new gardens, to extensions of cultivation, and to efforts made by managers to supplement the labour force in cases in which, for some reason or other, it had become inadequate. As regards the Cachar district, where a considerable increase occurred under all heads, the Deputy Commissioner remarks that during the year under report the *tilas* of the early days of tea cultivation were on many gardens deserted in favour of well drained loamy flats for which fresh labour was required. In the South Sylhet subdivision of the Sylhet district several new gardens were opened out during the year under report, or just at the close of the previous year. The totals under each head for each of the past five years were as follows :

	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
Act adults	22,601	24,799	17,373	25,312	28,455
Non-Act adults	10,716	12,749	8,832	12,627	13,347
Total of Act and non-Act adults ...	33,317	37,548	26,205	37,939	41,802
Children	12,976	18,110	9,875	11,969	14,248
Grand total, including children ...	46,293	55,658	36,080	49 908	56,050

The above figures show that, except in regard to children for the year 1889, the total importations under each head during the year under report were larger than in any of the previous four years.

District and valley statistics.

2. The following table gives the statistics of importations for each district of the province separately :

District.	Act adults.			Non-Act adults.			Total of Act and non-Act adults.			Children.			Grand total, including children.		
	1891.	1892.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1891.	1892.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1891.	1892.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1891.	1892.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1891.	1892.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Cachar ..	2,396	3,079	+ 28·50	2,393	3,220	+34·55	4,789	6,299	+31·53	736	1,162	+57·88	5,525	7,461	+35·04
Sylhet	486	1,020	+109·87	7,567	7,175	— 5·18	8,053	8,195	+ 1·76	3,891	4,260	+ 9·48	11,944	12,455	+ 4·27
Total Surma Valley	2,882	4,099	+42·22	9,960	10,395	+ 4·36	12,842	14,494	+12·86	4,627	5,422	+17·18	17,469	19,916	+14·00
Kámrúp ..	367	340	— 7·35	156	44	—71·79	523	384	—26·57	179	213	+18·99	702	597	—14·95
Darrang ..	4,932	4,962	+ ·60	292	386	+32·19	5,224	5,348	+ 2·37	1,837	2,091	+13·82	7,061	7,439	+ 5·35
Nowgong ..	1,017	1,166	+14·65	685	507	—25·99	1,702	1,673	— 1·70	492	500	+ 1·63	2,194	2,173	— ·96
Sibságar ..	6,489	7,611	+17·29	458	889	+94·10	6,947	8,500	+22·35	2,405	3,348	+39·21	9,352	11,848	+26·68
Lakhimpur ..	9,625	10,277	+ 6·77	1,076	1,126	+ 4·64	10,701	11,403	+ 6·56	2,429	2,674	+10·09	13,130	14,077	+ 7·21
Total Assam Valley	22,430	24,356	+ 8·58	2,667	2,952	+10·68	25,097	27,308	+ 8·81	7,342	8,826	+20·21	32,439	36,134	+11·39
Grand total ..	25,312	28,455	+12·41	12,627	13,347	+ 5·70	37,939	41,802	+10·18	11,969	14,248	+19·04	49,908	56,050	+12·31

These figures show that the increase under the head of Act adults was common to all districts of the province, except Kámrúp, and was especially marked in both districts of the Surma Valley and in the districts of Nowgong and Sibságar in the Assam Valley. Under the head of non-Act adults an increase occurred in the districts of Cachar, Darrang, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur, while a decrease took place in Sylhet, Kámrúp, and Nowgong. In the case of children the increase was common to all districts of the province, and is a satisfactory feature in the returns of the year, as showing that the Assam gardens are growing in popularity in the districts of recruitment. The above results, so far as they show a decided increase in Act importations into both of the Surma Valley districts, accompanied by a falling off (though not large) in non-Act importations into the Sylhet district, are noteworthy. No explanation is forthcoming of these results except in regard to Sylhet, the Deputy Commissioner of which district writes :

> It would appear that new gardens and extensions have to be worked by Act labour, as the non-Act coolie is aware of the unhealthiness of such gardens, and will not go to them. It is significant that the demand for labour on such clearings is met by an increase in the supply of Act coolies, there being concurrently a falling off in the number of free immigrants.

The small falling off under the head of non-Act adults in the Sylhet district is attributed by the Deputy Commissioner to the fact that the figures for the previous year were abnormally large. The general increase of importations into the Sylhet district was common to all the subdivisions except Karimganj, where the number of non-Act adults imported fell from 4,366 in the previous year to 3,904. No detailed remarks are called for on the figures for the Assam Valley, except as regards Kámrúp and Nowgong, these being the only districts which show a decrease of importations, as compared with the previous year, under the head of either Act adults or non-Act adults.

As regards the figures for the Kámrúp district, the Deputy Commissioner observes that the commencement of work on the Assam-Bengal Railway, which had operated to increase the importations of the previous year (managers having imported more largely with the object of taking up railway contracts), ceased to have any effect in this direction by the close of the year under report, as "the Railway had disappointed most, if not all, contractors and would-be contractors." The falling off

under the head of non-Act adults in the Nowgong district is attributed by the Deputy Commissioner to the fact that Mikirs, Kacharis, and other time-expired coolies who have now settled on Government lands supply much local labour to the tea gardens.

4. The following tabular statement distributes the adult immigrants according to their sex between the various localities of recruitment :

Nationality of immigrants.

Nationality of immigrants.		Act.				Non-Act.		Total.	
		Garden sardárs.		Contractors.					
		1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bengal ...	Men ...	657	872	1,123	1,151	579	828	2,359	2,851
	Women...	587	739	1,235	1,248	619	721	2,441	2,708
Total ...		1,244	1,611	2,358	2,399	1,198	1,549	4,800	5,559
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	Men ...	750	1,066	1,272	705	3,616	3,048	5,638	4,819
	Women...	392	772	1,107	531	3,387	3,074	4,886	4,377
Total ...		1,142	1,838	2,379	1,236	7,003	6,122	10,524*	9,196
Behar ...	Men ...	711	1,206	620	591	545	555	1,876	2,352
	Women...	465	837	481	395	399	489	1,345	1,721
Total ...		1,176	2,043	1,101	986	944	1,044	3,221	4,073
Chota Nagpur ...	Men ...	2,467	3,393	4,919	4,867	1,502	1,464	8,888	9,724
	Women...	2,259	2,951	4,425	4,046	985	1,189	7,699	8,186
Total ...		4,726	6,344	9,344	8,913	2,487	2,653	16,557*	17,910
Nepal ...	Men ...	13	8	90	16	6	6	109	30
	Women...	34	14	26	4	4	3	64	21
Total ...		47	22	116	20	10	9	173	51
Madras ...	Men ...	483	762	439	266	209	515	1,131	1,543
	Women...	379	605	312	273	196	473	887	1,351
Total ...		862	1,367	751	539	405	988	2,018	2,894
Bombay ...	Men ...	18	3	12	.....	10	11	40	14
	Women...	12	.....	9	.....	6	10	27	10
Total ...		30	3	21	.....	16	21	67	24
Assam ...	Men ...	.....	.....	1	18	505	672	506	690
	Women...	.....	.....	.....	.....	58	37	58	37
Total ...		.....	.....	1	18	563	709	564	727
Central Provinces ...	Men ...	.....	180	.....	461	.....	95	.....	736
	Women...	.....	105	.....	370	.....	49	.....	524
Total ...		.....	285	.....	831	.....	144	.....	1,260
Orissa ...	Men ...	8	.....	.....	.....	1	48	9	48
	Women...	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	60	6	60
Total ...		14	.....	.....	.....	1	108	15	108
Total ...	Men ...	5,107	7,490	8,476	8,075	6,973	7,242	20,556	22,807
	Women...	4,134	6,023	7,595	6,867	5,654	6,105	17,383	18,995
Grand total...		9,241	13,513	16,071	14,942	12,627	13,347	37,939	41,802

This statement, in which the statistics for the Central Provinces are for the first time separately given, shows greater activity of recruitment from all localities except the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Nepal, and Bombay. It is doubtful, however, if there was any material decrease for the province generally in the case of North-Western Provinces and Oudh, as the figures for the previous year, with which the comparison is made, include importations from the Central Provinces, which are shown separately for the year under report and aggregated 1,260 persons. The increase which took place was fairly shared between Bengal, Chota Nagpur, and Madras, and was especially marked in the case of Chota Nagpur. The considerable falling off which occurred

* Includes figures for Central Provinces also.

under the head of contractors' coolies imported from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and to a less extent from Behar, Chota Nagpur, Nepal, and Madras, is noteworthy, as is also the larger number of coolies imported through the agency of garden sardárs from all localities except Nepal and Bombay, from which places, however, the importations are insignificant. The number of non-Act immigrants increased in all cases except from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and Nepal. The total number of importations from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh decreased in the case of every district in the province except Cachar, where it increased from 1,225 in the previous year to 1,695. But in connection with the statistics under this head it has to be remembered that there is reason to fear that coolies from the North-Western Provinces, amongst others, are not unfrequently shown by the recruiting agencies as "junglies," or immigrants from Chota Nagpur, for whom a higher price is obtained. Similarly, Cachar was the only district in the province which showed an increase during the year under report in the number of Act coolies from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh imported through contractors, all other districts showing a more or less considerable decrease under this head. Immigration from Madras shows a further and considerable development, not the least satisfactory feature of which is the tendency shown, pre-eminently in the case of the Surma Valley and to a less extent in the more important labour districts of the Assam Valley, for these importations to fall to a greater extent than during the previous year under the non-Act category. Unfortunately, however, there is reason to fear that the coolies imported from Madras are often of poor physique. The following tables show the relative order in which each locality of recruitment stands in respect of Act and non-Act importations:

A.—Act Importations.

Locality of recruitment.	Recruited by		Total number of labourers imported during 1892.
	Garden sardárs.	Contractors.	
(1) Chota Nagpur	6,344	8,913	15,257
(2) Bengal	1,611	2,399	4,010
(3) North-Western Provinces and Oudh	1,838	1,236	3,074
(4) Behar	2,043	986	3,029

B.—Non-Act Importations.

	Number of coolies imported.
(1) North-Western Provinces and Oudh	6,122
(2) Chota Nagpur	2,653
(3) Bengal	1,549
(4) Behar	1,044

The various localities of recruitment thus stood in the same relative position as during the previous year in regard both to Act and non-Act importations.

Female immigrants.

5. The proportion of women amongst adult immigrants from the chief localities of recruitment is given below :

Locality of recruitment.	Percentage of women to men among							
	Sardári immigrants.		Contractors' immigrants.		Non-Act immigrants.		All adult immigrants.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Bengal	47·2	45·8	52·3	52·0	51·6	40·1	50·8	48·7
North-Western Provinces and Oudh ...	34·3	42·0	46·5	42·9	48·3	50·2	46·4	47·6
Behar	39·5	40·9	43·6	40·0	42·2	46·8	41·7	42·2
Chota Nagpur	47·7	46·5	47·3	45·4	39·6	44·8	46·3	45·7
Total	44·7	44·7	47·2	45·9	44·7	48·1	45·8	46·2

There was thus a satisfactory increase in the percentage of women in the case of sardári and non-Act immigrants (except those imported from Bengal, and as regards sardári immigrants from Chota Nagpur). On the other hand, a decrease is shown in the proportion of women amongst contractors' immigrants with reference to each locality

of recruitment. As observed by the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, this decrease is to be regretted, amongst other reasons, because the importations of batches without an adequate proportion of women in many cases means large desertions.

6. The following table gives the number of Act coolies imported during the past two years into each district, and shows the average number imported by each sardár:

Contractors' and sardári coolies.

District.	Sardári coolies.		Number of certificates granted to garden sardars.		Average recruits per sardár.		Contractors' coolies.		Percentage of increase or decrease of importations during 1892 as compared with 1891.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	Sardári.	Contractors'.
Cachar	1,520	2,031	598	495	2·5	4·1	876	1,048	+ 33·6	+ 19·6
Sylhet	410	717	288	301	1·4	2·3	76	303	+ 74·8	+298·6
Total Surma Valley ...	1,930	2,748	886	796	2·1	3·4	952	1,351	+ 42·3	+ 41·9
Kámrúp	173	275	48	10	3·6	27·5	194	65	+ 58·9	— 66·5
Darrang	1,628	2,453	459	446	3·5	5·5	3,304	2,509	+ 50·6	— 24·0
Nowgong	524	602	220	141	2·3	4·2	493	564	+ 14·8	+ 14·4
Sibságar	2,499	4,189	978	1,187	2·5	3·5	3,990	3,422	+ 67·6	— 14·2
Lakhimpur	2,487	3,246	819	811	3·0	4·0	7,138	7,031	+ 30·5	— 1·5
Total Brahmaputra Valley ...	7,311	10,765	2,524	2,595	2·8	4·1	15,119	13,591	+ 47·2	— 10·1
Grand total	9,241	13,513	3,410	3,391	2·7	3·9	16,071	14,942	+ 46·2	— 7·0

The increase in the number of sardári coolies imported into the province generally was very considerable, and was common to all districts. The number of certificates granted to sardárs showed an increase only in the case of the districts of Sylhet and Sibságar, all other districts showing a decrease. On the other hand, the average recruits per sardár increased in all cases. No explanation is forthcoming in the district reports of these results, which can therefore only be ascribed to greater resort to, and increased activity on the part of, sardárs.

Under the head of contractors' coolies the increase which took place in both the Surma Valley districts is noteworthy; but as regards the Sylhet district, it should be explained that one garden alone (Chandpur in the Habiganj subdivision) imported no less than 126 such coolies out of the total of 303 imported into that district. In all the districts of the Assam Valley, except Nowgong, where, however, the increase was inconsiderable, a more or less considerable decrease took place in the number of labourers recruited through the agency of contractors.

The following figures show the number of sardars' certificates in the several districts which provided for the medical examination of labourers prior to engagement under section 70 of the Act and the proportion of such certificates to the number of certificates to recruit granted to sardárs during the past two years:

District.	Number of certificates which provided for the medical examination of labourers.		Percentage of such certificates to certificates to recruit granted to sardars.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar	152	181	25·4	36·5
Sylhet	...	...	...	...
Kámrúp	...	...	...	...
Darrang	265	314	57·7	70·4
Nowgong	129	116	58·6	82·2
Sibságar	519	743	53·0	62·5
Lakhimpur	265	337	32·3	41·5
Total	1,330	1,691	39·0	49·8

The above figures are satisfactory in so far as all districts in which certificates were granted to garden sardárs show a considerable increase in the percentage of such certificates providing for medical examination as compared with the previous year.

Cost of importation.

7. There is no new information to be recorded under this head.

Transit of immigrants to the Assam Valley.

8. During the year under report 25,424 immigrants started from the recruiting districts for Assam against 20,319 in the previous year, showing an increase of 5,102. The casualties *en route* to Dhubri, that is, the number of coolies who died or absconded, were returned by the depôt managers as 87 (47 died and 40 absconded) against 2 (one died and one absconded) in the previous year, detentions *en route* owing to sickness were returned as 259 against 4 in the preceding year. The increase in the returns under these heads is due to more correct registration by the depôt managers. As regards the route adopted between the recruiting districts and Dhubri, the statistics show that 11,768 coolies (against 12,451 in 1891) came *viâ* Goalundo, and 13,308 (against 7,862 in 1891) *viâ* Kaunia-Jatrapur. The Kaunia route was thus far more largely used than during the previous year. Of the total number of immigrants who arrived at Dhubri, 1,427 (against 1,668 in the previous year) were recruited by licensed sardárs, and the remainder (23,649 against 18,645 in 1891) came up under the free system. Of these latter, 297 (against 109 in the previous year) passed as free immigrants, and of the balance, 15,946 (against 13,900 in the previous year) were put under contract, and 6,632 (against 4,636 in 1891) were passed as dependents attached to them, the number rejected being 774 (against 718 during the previous year). Of the free coolies placed under contract, 2,835 were recruited by licensed sardárs, 8,374 by unlicensed sardárs, and 12,302 by contractors. The figures for the previous year under these heads were 1,543, 4,739, and 12,254 respectively, so that the statistics for the year under report show a considerable development in the system of recruitment by licensed and unlicensed sardárs, especially the latter, while the number of coolies recruited by contractors stood at almost exactly the same figure as in 1891. The Civil Surgeon examined 16,730 immigrants (against 13,648 in the previous year) before they were placed under contract, of whom 15,947 (against 12,930 in 1891) were passed and 783* (against 718 in the previous year) were rejected. Of those rejected, 288 were sent on as dependents and 226 as free by the depôt managers, and 269 (with 243 dependents) were returned to their homes by the depôt managers. The corresponding figures for 1891 were 250, 143, and 314 respectively. No immigrant was returned to his or her home by the Civil Surgeon, whereas eleven immigrants were so returned during the previous year. Of the total number of free coolies rejected, 21 had been recruited by licensed sardárs, 451 by unlicensed sardárs, and 311 by contractors. Comparing the rejections with the total number recruited by each recruiting agency, the figures show that whereas the percentage of rejections to recruits in the case of licensed sardárs was under 1 per cent., in the case of unlicensed sardárs it was 5·3 per cent., and in that of contractors 2·5 per cent. So far, therefore, as coolies put under contract at Dhubri are concerned, it would appear that the best class of coolies was recruited by licensed sardárs and the next best by contractors, while unlicensed sardárs show the worst results in this respect. It is satisfactory to notice that no complaints were received by the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára from the managers of tea gardens as to the unfitness of coolies sent up from the Dhubri depôts. The depôts continue to be well reported on by inspecting officers.

Transit of immigrants to the Surma Valley.

9. In connection with the figures given in this paragraph, it has to be remembered that our sources of information in regard to what happens during the transit of immigrants *en route* from Goalundo to their destinations in the Surma Valley districts are confined (1) to the way-bills issued at Goalundo, and (2) to the statistics given in the registers maintained at the debarkation depôts in the districts in question. These sources of information should provide complete particulars regarding Act coolies, though even in their case the statistics are defective owing to the fact that the way-bills are not regularly returned to the Deputy Commissioners by the garden managers as required by the Assam rules, while the Deputy Commissioners report that the rule framed by the Bengal Government, which requires a copy of all such way-bills to be transmitted by the Embarkation Agent to the labour district officers, is not complied with. The necessary steps are being taken to remedy these defects, and the Chief Commissioner is considering separately whether a penalty should not be prescribed under section 145 of the Act to meet cases in which employers fail to comply with the rules in this respect. But, even if the rules were strictly adhered to, the requisite particulars would only be available in regard to labourers recruited under the Act, and the fact would remain as it is, that we have no separate information in regard to coolies recruited under the free system, in regard to whom way-bills are not required, and who do not pass through the debarkation depôts, but proceed direct to the gardens. It is true that some information under this head is supplied to the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet by the local agents of the India General Steam Navigation Company so far as immigrants who travel by steamer are concerned;

* This includes 2 coolies who were rejected out of 24 remaining at the end of 1891.

but it is open to doubt whether this information is of much real value, and in any case it cannot touch the case of the large number of free immigrants who travel by country boat. The following *resumé* of the reports made by the Deputy Commissioners of the Surma Valley districts must be read subject to the above explanation.

The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar reports that out of 3,499 immigrants despatched from Goalundo in 274 batches, 25 batches, comprising 387 coolies, were sent direct by steamer, and 249 batches, comprising 3,112 coolies, were forwarded by steamer as far as Fenchuganj, and thence by country boat. The deaths on the journey aggregated 29, against 44 in the previous year, but to these must be added 35 deaths (against 30 in 1891) which occurred in the debarkation depôts. The total number of deaths during transit or at the debarkation depôts thus aggregated 64, against 74 in the previous year. The Deputy Commissioner attributes the smaller number of deaths to the working of the Sanitary Rules issued under the Bengal Act, I of 1889, and observes that the fact of no case of infringement of these rules having been brought to notice serves to show that the rules have been complied with throughout. The general results certainly show some improvement as compared with the previous year, which may have been partially due to the effect of the rules issued under Act I (B.C.) of 1889; but the Chief Commissioner is certainly not prepared to accept the Deputy Commissioner's conclusion that the mere fact of no case of infringement of these rules having been brought to notice indicates that no such infringement has taken place. As regards Sylhet, the figures supplied by the local agents of the India General Steam Navigation Company show that out of 12,455 coolies imported, 7,104, or 57·0 per cent., used the despatch steamers for transit from Goalundo to Fenchuganj, as against 18·6 in 1891 and 43·9 per cent. in 1890. There has thus been a considerable improvement in the extent to which advantage was taken of the steamer service, and this is attributed by the Deputy Commissioner to the fact that the passage rates charged were reduced by the Steamer Company. Eleven deaths on the steamer were reported from cholera and one from diarrhœa, while two coolies died on their way from the Madna steamer station to the Habiganj depôt. As regards the comforts provided for immigrants during their journey, the Deputy Commissioner writes:

There is a medical officer and a supply of pure drinking-water on board the steamers for the use of the immigrants, who are also supplied with cooked meals.

The hospital assistant at Fenchuganj always inspects the coolies on board the steamers immediately on their arrival, and I have also directed the subdivisional officer of Karimganj to occasionally board the steamers that pass his subdivisional headquarters, and enquire as to the comforts provided for the coolies. Besides the Government depôts, there are also some private depôts at Fenchuganj, where the free coolies recruited by local agents and coming up by steamers are properly housed and provided with food.

Debarkation depôts.

10. The following statement shows the extent to which the debarkation depôts were used during the year under report:

District.	Number of depôts.	Total number of immigrants to district.	Number that passed through depôts.	Number detained at depôts. Through want of a gamla.	In hospital.	For segregation.	For the night only.	Contracts cancelled at depôts.	Expenditure. Building.			Establishments, &c.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			11		
									Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Cachar	2	7,461	3,457	228	256*	429	453	31	298	9	0	5,131	2	7
Sylhet	5	12,455	2,398	.....	27	96	266	...	422	0	6	1,373	1	9
Kamrup	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...	.....	...	.....			.....		
Darrang	1	7,439	7,606	4,955	90	...	1,223	...	274	14	3	1,307	14	11
Nowgong	1	1,609	1,789†	86	25	100	563	...	.....			358	8	1
Sibsagar	3	11,848	12,076‡	5,995	186	743	2,189	...	431	8	6	2,316	14	8
Lakhimpur ...	1	14,077	12,510	2,425	97	...	4,071	...	300	0	0	1,076	10	0
Total	13	54,889	39,836	13,684	681	1,368	8,765	31	1,727	0	3	11,564	4	0
Total for 1891 ...	13	49,206	633,708	9,175	868	858	9,940	...	6,902	0	0	9,508	15	10

* With 75 relatives.

† This includes 189 immigrants for other districts.

‡ This includes 1,352 immigrants for Dibrugarh and North Lakhimpur.

The number of depôts remained the same as in the previous year. As usual, only a small proportion of the immigrants into Sylhet passed through the depôts in that district. The number of coolies detained at the depôts owing to the want of a guide is still considerable, and largely increased, as compared with the previous year, in the districts of Darrang and Sibságar. In August 1892 orders were issued by the Chief Commissioner prescribing the levy of a higher charge in cases in which coolies are detained at depôts for a longer period than one day owing to the want of a guide. The effects of these orders will probably be more apparent in the returns of the current year. The figures show a considerable increase in the number of immigrants detained at depôts both in hospital and for purposes of segregation. This result is due to the particularly unhealthy character of the year and the prevalence of cholera. The larger expenditure under the head of depôt establishments is due to the addition of a new hospital with separate establishment in connection with the depôt at Silchar.

Mortality at Dhubri and during transit on the Brahmaputra.

11. The number of labourers and dependents despatched from Dhubri was 24,517 (against 19,552 in the previous year), of whom 62 (against 30 in the previous year) died *en route* to the gardens. Besides these, 11,296 immigrants (against 11,776 in 1891) were shipped at Goalundo for gardens in the Assam Valley, amongst whom 20 deaths occurred between Goalundo and Dhubri, 3 between Dhubri and Gauháti, 15 between Gauháti and Tezpur, and 13 between Tezpur and Dibrugarh, against 11, 13, 8, and 5 respectively during the previous year. The increase in deaths between Goalundo and Dhubri and between Gauháti and Dibrugarh was thus considerable. The total casualties during the journey through the Assam Valley were as follows :

	Number of deaths.		
	From cholera.	From other causes.	Total.
At Dhubri	59	11	70
On board the steamers	48	14	62
At ports of debarkation—			
Gauháti	...	...	...
Tezpur	42	2	44
Silghat	2	2	4
Kokilamukh	16	4	20
Disangmukh	27	9	36
Nigriting	8	...	8
Mohanamukh	31	3	34
Total	233	45	278
Total for 1891	83	31	114

These figures show a lamentable amount of mortality, which, however, was largely due to the prevalence of cholera. The Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára reports that cholera continued throughout the year except during the months of August, September, and October, and the Deputy Commissioner of Darrang remarks that the disease was of an unusually virulent type. So far as the results at Dhubri are concerned, it is noteworthy that the number of immigrants who arrived at Dhubri with the disease was 44 against 17 in the previous year.

Mortality during transit to the Surma Valley districts.

12. The following figures given by the Deputy Commissioners of Cachar and Sylhet refer only to coolies imported under the Act who passed through the depôts :

District.	Year.	Number of immigrants who left Goalundo.	Deaths.		
			En route.	In hospital.	Total.
Cachar ...	1892	3,457	29	35	64
	1891	3,348	44	30	74
Sylhet ...	1892	2,399	1	10	11
	1891	729	1	...	1

Although in the case of Cachar the mortality has decreased as compared with the previous year, it was nevertheless considerable. Of the total number of deaths, 54 in the case of Cachar and 10 in the case of Sylhet were due to cholera.

Cases of kidnapping, fraudulent recruitment, and enticement.

13. During the year under report a careful watch was, as usual, kept in regard to complaints of fraudulent practices in connection with recruitment, and action was, when necessary, invariably taken. On this subject the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára writes:

Inquiries in connection with the fraudulent recruitment of coolies were made on three accounts, *viz.*, (*a*) on receipt of letters either from the magistrates of the recruiting districts or from the relatives of the missing persons, (*b*) on complaints made by the coolies themselves at the time of registration, and (*c*) when the registering officer suspected any fraud in the recruitment of young women who appeared at Dhubri unaccompanied by any relatives. In 1892, 155 enquiries in all were made, against 95 in the previous year, of which 56 were of the first, 3 of the second, and 96 of the third description. Of the first class, 39 persons were not traced and ten inquiries are pending. Seven persons were traced, of whom one was reported of full age, so the matter was dropped. In the case of four persons their guardians refused to prosecute the abductors. This is possibly due to the fact that their cases were weak. In one case the abductor was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment under section 363, Indian Penal Code, but he was acquitted, on appeal, by the Judicial Commissioner of Hazaribagh, as in the opinion of the latter the evidence that the woman was under 16 was insufficient. One case was dropped, as no criminal offence was disclosed. One case, which had been shown pending in my previous year's report, was dropped, as the person came back and went up to Assam.

The three persons complaining before the registering officer were forwarded to the magistrates of the recruiting districts. The guardians of two persons took no measures against the accused, and regarding one the magistrate said that he was of full age, so no further action could be taken in the matter.

Of the 96 persons regarding whom inquiry was made by the registering officer, 28 were traced and 49 were not traced. The cases of 19 persons are still pending. In eight cases it was shown that there was no fraud, as the persons in question came of their own accord. The relatives of four did not take any steps to recover them, as the contracts were apparently executed by persons of full age, and they could not get them cancelled. In 15 cases the guardians took no action. In one case the accused was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment. Of three pending enquiries mentioned in last year's report, two persons were not traced in their villages, and one came again to Assam of her own accord.

The following figures relate to complaints during each of the past two years in the several districts except Goálpára:

District.	Complaints.		True cases.		False cases.		Not proved.		Pending.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sylhet	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Kámrép	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Darrang	4	2	1	1	1	...	1	...	1	1
Nowgong	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Sibságar	9	11	1	...	...	2	4	3	4	6
Lakhímpur	29	19	1	1	5	5	15	9	8	4
Total	42	36	3	3	6	8	20	14	13	11

These figures show that for the province generally the number of complaints decreased from 42 in the previous year to 36. True cases stood at the same figure (3) as for 1891. False cases advanced from 6 to 8, and cases not proved and pending fell from 20 and 13 to 14 and 11 respectively.

In Cachar no case of fraudulent recruitment was brought to notice. In Sylhet two cases of fraudulent recruitment were brought forward in connection with two batches of coolies, one for the Satgaon and the other for the Kurmacherra garden in the South Sylhet subdivision. As regards these cases, the Deputy Commissioner writes:

A woman in the first batch made some complaint before the Magistrate of Habiganj (the depôt through which her batch passed), who referred the matter to the subdivisional officer

of South Sylhet, who in his turn made a reference to the Magistrate of Midnapur about the woman. The Magistrate of Midnapur, after local enquiry, ascertained that she was a widow with two children, and led an immoral life, and consequently no particular search was made for her when she was missed. As she has left behind two little children, I considered there was some truth in her statement that she had been enticed away by misrepresentations, and I accordingly directed the subdivisional officer of South Sylhet to send her back to her home at Government expense.

As regards the other batch, reference was made to the Superintendent of Emigration, Calcutta, who reported that the coolies had freely admitted their contracts before him. Probably the coolies changed their minds, having been frightened by what they heard about the gardens they were booked for. No complaint, however, came from their relatives residing in the recruiting districts, so they were sent to serve out their contracts on the gardens for which they were recruited.

In Kámrúp one case of fraudulent recruitment was brought to notice, the particulars of which are thus described by the Deputy Commissioner:

On the 16th September 1892 the native doctor of the steamer *Marwari* reported that a coolie woman, named Baradu, shipped from Mr. P. W. Baptist's depôt at Dhubri for the Dekom tea estate in Dibrugarh, complained that she had been fraudulently recruited by one Joiboron Arkati, who had also taken ornaments and money from her. The statements of the woman, of her companions, and of the doctor of the steamer were taken, and the woman was permitted to proceed to Dibrugarh pending further enquiries. Copies of the statements made by the woman were sent to the Deputy Commissioners of Dhubri and of Manbhum, and to the subdivisional officer of Raniganj, for enquiry in their districts. The Deputy Commissioner of Purulia reported that the woman, after being deserted by her husband, had left her father's house with Joiboron, but that she had no ornaments or money with her. From the enquiries made at Purulia, and from the fact that the woman complained immediately on discovering that the steamer had left Dhubri without Joiboron, I was of opinion that the woman had entered into contract and proceeded on board in the belief that the recruiter Joiboron was to accompany her. I was therefore of opinion that the contract (entered into before Deputy Commissioner, Dhubri) should be cancelled and the woman returned to her country, and reported to the Commissioner for any further enquiry and necessary action at Dibrugarh. The Commissioner has now informed me that the woman has found a new husband on the garden at Dibrugarh and has no wish to return.

In Darrang enquiries were made into three cases (including one pending from the previous year), which are thus described by the Deputy Commissioner:

The Superintendent of Emigration requested me to enquire into the case of an adult woman called Piari, *alias* Rijni. The woman and others of her gang were examined, but it turned out that she had come of her own accord. She had not the smallest desire to have her contract cancelled.

Some Ganjamis, recruited by Mr. Moore of Barjuli, ran away, and warrants issued for their arrest under section 175. The Magistrate of the Ganjam district refused to execute the warrants on the ground that the men (who were recruited by Mr. Moore in person) were not of the coolie class, had been cruelly treated at Barjuli, and had been taken to Assam under a false impression. I made a long and exhaustive enquiry from other members of the gang, and forwarded the proceedings to Ganjam. No action, however, appears to have been taken, though some months have elapsed.

In one case a coolie girl's relatives wrote to me that she was under legal age, though she had given her contract at Dhubri. In this case I cancelled her contract. She was apparently about ten years old.

As observed by the Commissioner, in regard to the case last mentioned, the girl should not have been passed at Dhubri, and further enquiries are being made regarding the circumstances under which this was done.

In Nowgong one case of kidnapping was brought to notice, the following description of which is given by the Deputy Commissioner:

The District Superintendent of Police, Jabalpur, brought to notice that on the 1st October 1891 one Bhapute Mitra, a recruiter, was said to have recruited one Samaiya, son of Ganga, caste Kurmi, aged eighteen years, under false pretences, and after detaining him four days sent him off on the 5th idem to Babu Mathura Krishna Ghosh at Purulia. The recruiter left the district immediately, and after considerable correspondence Babu Mathura Krishna Ghosh had admitted that the lad reached him, and was passed on to Binod Bihari Dutt of Purulia on the 11th November last, who states that the lad was sent on to Salona tea garden in Nowgong on the above date as Sanne, No. 481, age twenty-five. Mr. Logan, through whose depôt the man passed, says that one Somai passed through his depôt on the 16th November 1891 for the Salona Tea Company. An enquiry was made about the coolie in Salona and all the gardens of the Kondoli division, but he could not be identified in any of the gardens of this district.

In regard to the cases left pending in the Sibságar district from the previous year, one was disposed of as false, the Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas having reported that the woman was not a minor, and that she had left her home of her own free

will. In another case enquiry was discontinued, as the two women concerned were found to have absconded. In a third case, relating to 15 coolies of the Missamara garden, enquiry showed that, with the exception of one coolie who had absconded, all had been sent back to Bengal by the manager. In the last case enquiry is still pending in consequence apparently of some misapprehension on the part of the authorities of Manbhum. During the year under report, 11 cases of alleged fraudulent recruitment (against 9 cases in the previous year) were brought forward in the Sibságar district. Of these cases, eight were of the ordinary type, the complaint made being that the women were enticed away from their homes, or otherwise wrongfully induced to come to Assam, with the result that in one case no trace could be obtained of the complainant's home or relatives ; in three others the women, regarding whom enquiries were made at the instance of their relatives in the districts of recruitment, declared their unwillingness to return to their homes, and in one case the contract of the complainant was cancelled by mutual consent, and she was repatriated, the manager having paid her three months' wages. The other cases are still under enquiry, but none of the cases referred to presented any special features, and it is unnecessary to give details regarding them. Of the remaining three cases, one related to the alleged kidnapping of a minor, and resulted in the discharge of the accused by the magistrate. The second case related to a girl four years of age, and the question was whether she was really the child of two immigrants who belonged to a garden in the Golághát subdivision, or whether she had been enticed away from her home. The matter was enquired into, with the result that no reason was found to exist for the suspicion that the girl was not really the child of the immigrants concerned. In the last case a complaint was made by three coolies that they had been unlawfully recruited and had been forced to proceed to Assam against their will. Enquiries are being made into this case in the district of recruitment ; but it is noteworthy that after the matter was enquired into on the garden, the garden was inspected by the Civil Surgeon and was visited by the Deputy Commissioner, but on neither occasion was any complaint made.

In the Dibrugarh district, 19 cases of alleged fraudulent recruitment were enquired into, against 29 cases in 1891. The Deputy Commissioner gives the following account of these cases :

Of these 19 cases, 8 referred to cases of single women, 2 of whom could not be traced. Of the remaining 6, the results of 2 cases are not known, as replies to my references to Bengal districts have not been received. Two admitted execution of contracts of their own free will and wanted to remain on the garden. In one case a girl, who complained on arrival at the ghat, absconded before she was sent on to the garden and prosecuted the accused in her country. The police reported the case in C Form, and the magistrate in Bengal did not think any further action necessary. One woman was sent down to Purulia as a witness. The Deputy Commissioner, Manbhum, cancelled her contract, as it appeared that she did not execute it of her own free will.

Two cases referred to two batches of women. In one case three women complained, on arrival at the Dibrugarh ghat, that they had been wrongfully recruited. After enquiry the Deputy Commissioner, Manbhum, reported that he did not think that a criminal case would lie. In another case two married women were alleged to have been brought up under false pretences, but the husbands neither took any legal steps against the persons who enticed them, nor endeavoured to get their wives back.

Six cases referred to the alleged abduction of boys. In four cases the boys were over sixteen years of age ; in one case the boy has been sent down to Bengal, and the result has not yet been communicated. In the remaining case the boy was certified by the civil hospital assistant in charge to be about fourteen years of age. The result of this case has also not yet been communicated by the magistrate in Bengal.

Two cases referred to two men, one of whom absconded from the garden before any enquiry could be made, and the case of the other was filed by the magistrate for want of proof.

One case referred to a batch of five Nepali coolies who complained of alleged fraudulent recruitment. The Deputy Commissioner, Goálpára, enquired into the case, and reported that they executed contracts willingly at Dhubri. They were accordingly ordered to work out the terms of their contracts, and nothing has been heard of them since.

The Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur might well have given fuller details than those above quoted, but it is clear that the cases have been sufficiently enquired into, and further action in regard to them is not called for.

The Chief Commissioner is glad again to be able to notice from the report of the Collector of Ganjam on Inland Emigration from that district that no cases of kidnapping were reported during the year 1892, and that no complaints were made of compulsion or misrepresentation having been used in connection with recruitment. "On the other hand," the report goes on to say, "it appears that the emigrants proceeded to Assam very cheerfully."

The proportion of Act, non-Act, and all coolies belonging to each nationality is shown below :

—	1891.	1892		
	Total.	Act labourers	Non Act labourers.	Total
Bengal	21 8	15·86	24 75	21 1
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	14·9	8 05	20·00	15 1
Bahar	7 0	7 12	7 22	7 2
Chota Nagpur	49 1	59 78	40 06	48 2
Nepal	0 1	·07	·15	0·1
Madras	2 8	4 53	2 56	3·4
Bombay	0·2	·04	·21	0 1
Assam	4 1	3 00	4 47	3 9
Central Provinces	.....	1·53	·45	0·9
Orissa	.....	·02	·13	.....
Total	100·	100·	100·	100 0

It will be seen from the above statement that the general results closely correspond with those of the preceding year.

Mean strength of labour force in each district.

18. The mean strength of the labour force in each district for each half-year and for the whole year is shown in the following table. The percentages of mortality and desertions are calculated on these figures.

District.	Act.			Non-Act						Total annual strength		
				Adults.			Children					
	First half-year	Second half-year	Annual mean	First half-year	Second half-year	Annual mean	First half year	Second half-year.	Annual mean.	First half year	Second half-year.	Annual mean
Cachar ..	7,204	7,417	7,310	51,474	52,211	51,842	45,017	45,085	45,051	103,696	104,713	104,204
Sylhet ..	7,426	6,962	7,194	49,581	51,915	50,748	37,060	39,015	38,037	94,068	97,892	96,280
Kamrup ..	932	974	953	1,553	1,460	1,501	1,272	1,235	1,253	3,757	3,669	3,708
Darrang ..	23,256	24,557	23,756	11,586	11,894	11,740	14,707	15,529	15,118	49,549	51,679	50,611
Nowgong ..	3,907	4,063	3,985	7,014	6,737	6,875	3,943	6,928	5,935	10,865	16,829	16,847
Sibsagar .	38,746	39,010	38,878	21,034	22,033	22,444	38,447	39,824	39,140	99,128	101,798	100,463
Lakhimpur ..	33,652	35,289	34,420	21,814	22,523	22,168	28,600	29,420	29,010	83,967	87,232	85,599
Total ..	115,028	117,973	116,499	164,957	169,684	167,320	171,618	176,146	173,837	451,631	463,803	457,717

CHAPTER III.

CONTRACTS AND WAGES.

Number of contracts made.

19. The number of contracts executed in 1892 as compared with 1891 is shown below :

	1891.	1892.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Under section 111 of the Act	18,256	21,050	+15·3
„ „ 112 „ „	1,057	862	—18·4
Dhubri contracts	12,910	15,946	+19·6
In recruiting districts	3,906	5,021	+28·5
Total	36,129	42,879	+18·6

20. The following table shows the sex and nationality of the labourers who entered into local contracts, district by district :

Nationality of labourers making local contracts.

District.	Sex.	Contracts under section 111.	Contracts under section 112.	Particulars of columns 3 and 4 by nationality. Bengal.	North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Behar.	Chota Nagpur.	Nepal.	Madras.	Bombay.	Assam.	Central Provinces.	Orissa.	Total of columns 3 and 4.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Cachar ..	Men	567	213	99	259	151	141	..	110	..	....	20	..	780
	Women	358	208	71	162	134	110	..	73	..	1	15	..	566
	Total of 1892 ..	925	421	170	421	285	251	..	183	..	1	35	..	1,346
	" " *1891* ..	*900*	*173*	*269*	*371*	*137*	*266*	..	*10*	*19*	*8*	..	..	*1,073*
Sylhet ..	Men	1,663	2	254	438	338	338	1	262	..	1	31	7	1,665
	Women	1,572	....	253	356	237	276	..	231	..	3	16	1	1,373
	Total of 1892 ..	3,035	2	507	794	575	614	1	493	..	4	47	8	3,038
	" " *1891* ..	*2,149*	*2*	*305*	*688*	*319*	*343*	..	*484*	*1*	*1*	..	*1*	*2,142*
Kamrúp ..	Men	38	1	14	....	4	11	1	..	..	9	..	..	39
	Women	14	....	5	....	1	6	..	..	..	2	..	..	14
	Total of 1892 ..	52	1	19	....	5	17	1	..	..	11	..	..	53
	" " *1891* ..	*20*	*1*	*5*	....	....	*2*	..	..	..	*16*	..	..	*21*
Darrang ..	Men	2,705	85	259	90	73	1,336	1	7	..	1,015	9	..	2,790
	Women	1,511	4	224	84	41	786	1	13	..	366	..	..	1,515
	Total of 1892 ..	4,216	89	483	174	114	2,122	2	20	..	1,381	9	..	4,305
	" " *1891* ..	*3,874*	*91*	*510*	*119*	*123*	*1,509*	..	*16*	..	*1,628*	..	..	*3,995*
Nowgong ..	Men	143	13	40	2	14	83	..	..	..	12	..	..	156
	Women	88	2	33	1	4	43	..	..	..	4	..	..	90
	Total of 1892 ..	231	15	73	3	18	126	..	..	..	16	..	..	246
	" " *1891* ..	*299*	*10*	*54*	....	*9*	*244*	..	..	..	*2*	..	..	*309*
Sibságar ..	Men	4,822	180	722	226	613	2,880	..	111	..	439	11	..	5,002
	Women	3,726	109	750	153	429	2,262	3	124	2	102	9	..	3,835
	Total of 1892 ..	8,548	289	1,472	379	1,032	5,142	3	235	2	541	20	..	8,837
	" " *1891* ..	*7,938*	*557*	*1,661*	*273*	*842*	*4,361*	*7*	*72*	*12*	*827*	..	..	*8,545*
Lakhimpur ..	Men	2,348	34	212	68	12	1,968	..	22	..	40	5	..	2,282
	Women	1,694	17	174	32	31	1,435	..	14	..	16	8	..	1,711
	Total of 1892 ..	4,042	51	386	86	103	3,403	..	36	..	56	13	..	4,093
	" " *1891* ..	*3,095*	*223*	*403*	*40*	*93*	*2,635*	*1*	*14*	..	*22*	..	..	*3,318*
	Grand total of 1892 ..	21,050	868	3,110	1,867	2,129	11,625	7	977	2	2,010	124	8	21,918
	" " " *1891* ..	*18,256*	*1,057*	*3,265*	*1,491*	*1,523*	*9,900*	*8*	*596*	*25*	*2,504*	..	*1*	*10,313*

In all districts except Nowgong, an increase took place in the extent to which resort was had to section 111 of the Act, and the increase was specially marked in the Sylhet district. As regards section 112, the noteworthy points in the above statement are the considerable increase which took place, as compared with the previous year, in the number of contracts made under that section in the Cachar district (from 173 to 421) and the large falling off in the districts of Sibságar (from 557 to 289) and Lakhimpur (from 223 to 51). The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar explains that this result was due to the large number of Madras immigrants who came up as free,

but on arrival were put under contract under section 112. The large increase, which took place in the number of local contracts executed in the Sylhet district, is due to the results in the South Sylhet subdivision, where 2,771 of the 3,036 contracts of this class were executed. This result is attributed by the subdivisional officer to the fact that managers thought it necessary to resort to Act-I agreements, there being a large demand for local labour in connection with the construction of the Assam-Bengal Railway. No particular explanation can be given of the decrease which took place in Sibságar and Lakhimpur in the number of contracts executed under section 112 of the Act.

Details of local contracts.

21. The following table gives details of local contracts, the classes of labourers who entered into them, and the terms of the contracts. This table does not include contracts executed at Dhubri, figures relating to which are given at the close of the paragraph.

District.	Section 111.	Section 112.	Class of labourers.				Number of years.							
			New.	Time-expired.	Old Act coolies transferred.	Local.	Under one year.	1	2	Under two and a half years.	3	4	Under five years.	5
Cachar	925	421	801	544	..	1	..	95	371	..	473	11	..	396
Sylhet	3,036	2	1,695	1,343	..	..	..	997	334*	1†	1,694	..	..	12
Kámrúp	52	1	..	42	.	11	22	17	4	2	4	..	..	4
Darrang	4,216	89	67	2,427	..	1,821	31	1,683	1,341	23	783	20	..	424
Nowgong	231	15	36	207	3	..	3	157	20	..	55	9	..	2
Sibságar	8,540	289	2,738	5,581	..	510	37	2,100	3,066	61	3,262	125	97	81
Lakhimpur	4,042	51	88	3,948	..	57	24	2,484	937	..	410	60	..	178
Total of 1892	21,042‡	868	5,415	14,092	3	2,400	117	7,533	6,073	87	6,681	225	97	1,097
" " *1891*	*18,437*	*1,057*	*4,321*	*12,977*	*61*	*2,135*	*178*	*6,927*	*4,915*	*43*	*5,833*	*114*	*111*	*1,373*

These figures show a more or less considerable increase in the number of new, time-expired, and local labourers who entered into local contracts. Under the head of duration of contracts it will be seen that a decrease occurred in the number of contracts for five years, and this was common to all districts except Cachar and Kámrúp. Speaking generally, it may be said that contracts for periods from three to five years are entered into by newly-recruited coolies, while time-expired labourers, when they renew their contracts, do so, as a rule, for shorter terms.

As regards the contracts executed at Dhubri, the figures for 1891 and 1892 stand thus :

Year.	Three-year contracts.			Five-year contracts.			Total contracts.		
	Labourers.	Dependents.	Total.	Labourers.	Dependents.	Total.	Labourers.	Dependents.	Total.
1891	2,348	1,144	3,492	10,562	3,549	14,111	12,910	4,693	17,603
1892	1,536	1,196	2,732	14,410	5,436	19,846	15,946	6,632	22,578

In paragraph 20 of last year's report it was said that the proportion of five-year contracts executed at Dhubri had recently shown signs of decreasing. During the year under review, however, the percentage of such contracts (87·9), though smaller than in 1889 (98·3) and previous years, is considerably larger than it was for either of the years 1890 (78·8) or 1891 (81·8).

* This includes 38 contracts for more than one year and less than two.

† Under three years.

‡ The difference between this entry and that in column 3 of the table in paragraph 20 showing nationality of labourers entering into local contracts and in column 6 of the statement at the end of the report is in the case of Sibságar, and is attributed to the fact that 8 contracts executed during the latter part of December and sent to the Emigration Office after the end of the month are included in the managers' returns.

22. The following table shows the extent to which contracts executed locally were verified during the year :

Verification of contracts.

1	2				3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
District.	Number and year of contracts under section 111 (excluding those executed at Dibrúrí) remaining unverified at beginning of the year under report.				Number of contracts executed during the year under section 111.	Total of columns 2 and 3.	Number of such contracts executed after the last inspection where the garden has been inspected during the year under report.	Total number of contracts for verification (column 4, *minus* column 5).	Number of contracts susceptible of verification (column 6, *minus* total of column 13).	Number of contracts of the year under report susceptible of verification, column 7 — column 5, *minus* total of sub-column for year under report in column 12.	Number and year of contract. (a) Verified.				
	1889.	1890.	1891.	Total.							1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	Total.
Cachar	..	30	271	301	925	1,226	311	915	789	506	..	25	258	506	789
Sylhet	..	32	1,121	1,154	3,036	4,190	701	3,489	2,935	2,132	..	..	780	2,081	2,861
Kámrúp	..	..	10	10	52	62	5	57	38	38	..	..	..	38	38
Darrang	..	..	1,651	1,651	4,216	5,867	1,274	4,593	4,254	2,785	..	..	1,442	2,714	4,156
Nowgong	..	..	20	20	231	251	84	167	127	107	..	..	20	107	127
Sibságar	..	73	2,351	2,424	8,540	10,964	3,813	7,151	5,470	4,227	..	73	1,144	4,181	5,398
Lakhimpur	..	..	406	406	4,042	4,448	1,353	3,095	2,839	2,480	..	..	359	2,478	2,837
Total of 1892	..	136	5,830	5,966	21,012*	27,008	7,541	19,467	16,452	12,275	..	98	4,003	12,105	16,206
„ „ *1891*	*753*†	*481*	*7,070*	*7,898*	*18,437*	*26,265*	*5,441*	*20,824*	*18,672*	*12,419*	*332*‡	*5,375*	*12,050*	....	*17,757*

District.	9					10	11	12	13														
	Number and year of contract—*contd.* (b) Cancelled.					Total (of totals under column 9).	Percentage of contracts verified or cancelled (total of column 10 on total of column 7).	Percentage of contracts of year under report, verified or cancelled (total of sub-columns for year under report in column 9 on total of column 8).	Remaining unverified (of those incapable of verification) on account of														
									Expiry of the term of contract.			Death or desertion of the labourer.			Absence of the labourer on the date of inspection on recruiting work.			Sickness.			Total.		
	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	Total.				Of previous years.	Of 1892.	Total.	Of previous years.	Of 1892.	Total.	Of previous years.	Of 1892.	Total.	Of previous years.	Of 1892.	Total.	Of previous years.	Of 1892.	Total.
Cachar	..	..	..	..	..	789	100·	100·	13	..	13	3	31	34	2	65	67	..	12	12	18	108	126
Sylhet	..	..	23	51	74	2,935	100·	100·	137	..	137	179	153	332	30	35	65	5	15	20	351	203	554
Kámrúp	..	..	..	..	..	38	100·	100·	10	..	10	..	1	1	..	5	5	..	3	3	10	9	19
Darrang	..	..	..	7	7	4,163	97·8	97·7	127	..	127	15	44	59	27	45	72	13	68	81	182	157	339
Nowgong	..	..	..	..	..	127	100·	100·	..	38	38	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	40	40
Sibságar	..	..	..	..	..	5,398	98·6	98·9	885	..	885	143	178	321	..	139	139	153	183	336	1,181	500	1,681
Lakhimpur	..	..	..	2	2	2,839	100·	100·	41	..	41	3	10	13	2	188‡	190	1	11	12	47	209	256
Total of 1892 ..	..	..	23	60	83	16,289	99·0	99·1	1,213	38	1,251	343	418	761	61	478	539	172	292	464	1,789	1,226	3,015
„ „ *1891* ..	..	*9*	*48*	..	*57*	*17,814*	*96·4*	*97·4*	*918*	*87*	*1,005*	*293*	*232*	*525*	*378*	*234*	*612*	*2*	*8*	*10*	*1,591*	*561*	*2,152*

The percentages entered in columns 11 and 12 of the above statement show that improvement has again taken place in the work of verification of local contracts, and the only districts in which contracts susceptible of verification are reported as not having been verified are Darrang and Sibságar. The Chief Commissioner notices that the figures entered in column 13 of the above statement under the head of contracts remaining unverified at the close of the year under report on account of sickness are enormously in excess of those entered under the same head for the previous year, especially in the case of the Sibságar district where 336 contracts are so entered, against none in the previous year and against a total of 464 for the whole province. Enquiry will be made into this matter, and, if necessary, further instructions will be issued for the guidance of the officers concerned as to the system which should be adopted in entering figures under this head.

* See explanation at foot of statement showing details of local contracts.
† These figures include the figures of 1888 (277 and 126) respectively.
‡ Includes 177 coolies whose contracts were not verified, as the agreements were not produced by the employers at the time of inspection.

23. The following table shows the number of contracts which expired by lapse of time, the number of such contracts reported by managers, and the number of contracts cancelled or which terminated in other ways :

Expiry and cancelment of contracts.

District.	Number shown in garden returns as time-expired.	Number of time-expired contracts reported under section 141.	Number cancelled by Inspector under 141.	Number suspended by Inspector temporary for unfitness, section 130.	Number cancelled by Inspector for permanent incapacity, section 122.	Number made void by committee by reason of unfitness of estate, section 129.	Number cancelled by magistrate under section 140.	Number redeemed under section 142.	Number dissolved by mutual consent.
Cachar	2,295	2,293	.....	.....	37	.....	.....	.....	3
Sylhet	3,716	3,716	4	.....	103	.....	.....	.....	17
Kámrúp	66	66	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....
Darrang	4,780	4,780	7	.....	142	.....	.....	1	27
Nowgong	534	534	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	.....	12
Sibságar	12 420	10,557	.....	.....	188	.....	.....	6	4
Lakhimpur	6,396	6,396	2	.....	1,074	.....	.....	3	19
Total of 1892	30,207	28,342	13	.....	1,647	.....	.....	10	82
" " *1891*	*24,757*	*22,558*	*18*	.....	*643*	.....	.....	*6*	*138*

Taking the province as a whole, there was some improvement in the extent to which managers complied, during the year under report, with the provisions of section 141 of the Act, which make it obligatory on employers to give to the Inspectors notice in writing of the determination of labour contracts within one month from the date of such determination. But the results in Sibságar, where employers failed to comply with the requirements of the law in no less than 1,863 cases, are most unsatisfactory. In regard to this the Deputy Commissioner writes :

With a view to instituting prosecutions in some cases, if necessary, letters were written to the managers of some of the principal gardens making default in this respect, calling their attention to the provisions of the law. These gardens have since submitted the reports required. Simlar warnings will be addressed to other gardens defaulting.

The action taken by Mr. Monahan is wholly insufficient. Prosecutions should clearly have been undertaken; and if this were done in one or two of the worst cases, there is little doubt that the remissness at present shown would at once disappear. The Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, will be requested to see that prompt action is taken in accordance with these instructions. The figures for the cancelment of contracts by Inspectors for permanent incapacity under section 122 of the Act show an enormous increase as compared with the previous year, while a smaller number of contracts have been dissolved by mutual consent. The statistics under these two heads are—

District.	Contracts cancelled for permanent incapacity under section 122 of the Act.		Contracts dissolved by mutual consent.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar	...	37	38	3
Sylhet	10	103	2	17
Kámrúp	1	3	2	...
Darrang	23	142	35	27
Nowgong	51	100	5	12
Sibságar	144	188	9	4
Lakhimpur	414	1,074	47	19
Total	643	1,647	138	82

In regard to the increase in the case of contracts cancelled under section 122, the Deputy Commissioners write as follows :

Deputy Commissioner of Cachar—

Of the 37 contracts cancelled under the provisions of section 122, 36 were cancelled at the Sadr subdivision, and 1 in Hailákándi. Of these, 7 were brought up by contractors, and the remaining 30 by garden sardárs. These were a lot of peculiarly debilitated and feeble type of coolies from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and Behár, and again suffering from malarial cachexia, who were rejected by the Civil Surgeon and were released.

Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet—

Most of the labourers, whose contracts were cancelled for permanent unfitness, were from Ganjam and Madras serving on the gardens of the South Sylhet Company. The garden medical officer was asked to certify as to the fitness of these labourers.

Deputy Commissioner of Darrang—

There was a large increase in the number of contracts cancelled under section 122. This was entirely due to the wretched physical condition of recent immigrants.

Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur—

During the year under report an unusually large number of contracts was cancelled under section 122 (1,074 against 414 of 1891). Hilika, Margherita Tea Estate, Talup, Sukerating, Dum Duma, Bishakupi, Hatiali, Tiphuk, and Rowmari gardens make free use of this section. The cause of this large increase is due to there being many European doctors who insist on the contracts of coolies of bad physique being cancelled under section 122. Of the 1,074 coolies whose contracts were cancelled under this section, as many as 678 coolies were sent back to their country, 16 died, and 11 absconded from the charitable dispensary. The rest remained on the garden. It is not known how many of those who preferred to remain on the garden are still living.

The other Deputy Commissioners do not make any particular remarks; but it seems clear that the provisions of section 122 have been more freely used in consequence of the bad physique of the coolies imported, and because the fact is becoming more widely recognised that the sooner a garden gets rid of labourers of poor physique, the better it is for the interests of the garden in many ways. It is presumed that in all these cases certificates were given by the Inspectors concerned as required by section 122 of the Act. No remarks are called for in regard to the number of contracts cancelled by mutual consent except in the Lakhimpur district, where the cancelments had reference to coolies who came up for the Assam Railways and Trading Company, Limited, but on arrival were rejected by the Company's medical officer. As these coolies agreed to work on the Mukla Saw-mills and Rajabheta Tea Estate, their agreements with the Assam Railways and Trading Company were allowed to be dissolved by mutual consent.

The extent to which the second paragraph of section 121 and section 170 of Act I of 1882 are acted upon.

24. The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar reports that no use was made during the year of the second paragraph of section 121 of the Act, and that, as regards section 170, although 9 managers sent in lists of absentees, in no case was the Inspector asked to endorse the days of absence on the contracts. Mr. Herald adds:

In fact, it is only in cases when the absences amount to a considerable number of days that they report this. As a rule, however, they do not take notice of these absences.

In Sylhet no use was made either of section 121 or of section 170 during the year under report, and the same was the case in Kámrúp. In Darrang no use was made of section 121, and although twelve managers submitted lists of absentees under section 170, only in one case was the Inspector asked to endorse days of absence. The Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong writes as follows:

As reported in last year, the coolies, when sick, receive diet or subsistence allowance according to the custom prevailing on the gardens. Days of sickness are, as a rule, not endorsed on their agreements in this district, as this procedure is likely to create ill-feeling between the coolies and the employer.

Some gardens continue to send in monthly lists of *khatia* days. When the Inspector goes to the gardens, he examines the lists, and, after the necessary enquiries, endorses the absent days on the agreements. I have only had this list brought forward on one garden in the district, and even in this case the manager did not press to have the days added.

In Sibságar the second paragraph of section 121 was not used by employers. Forty-nine employers sent in lists of absentees under section 170, and the Deputy Commissioner made endorsements in 56 cases on four gardens. In Lakhimpur no case occurred under section 121; and although 16 gardens sent in regularly lists of absentees, in no case was endorsement of absence on the contracts insisted upon. These results do not call for any particular remark.

Repatriation of labourers.

25. The following figures give certain particulars regarding the repatriation of labourers during each of the past two years:

District.	Number of contracts cancelled for permanent incapacity under section 122.		Number of coolies repatriated.		Number of coolies who will be repatriated when a sardar is available to accompany them.		Number of coolies who voluntarily remained on the garden or in the district.		Number of coolies who died.		Number of coolies who absconded.		Number of coolies sent to the Lunatic Asylum.		Amount paid by Government over and above the three months' wages paid by employers.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891	1892.	1891	1892.	1891.	1892.
															Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar	..	37	...	32	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	26 8 0
Sylhet	10	103	5	73	..	5	5	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	64 11 4	562 13 9
Kamrup	1	2	..	8	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	....
Darrang	23	142	21	142	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	....	....
Nowgong	61	109	29	64	..	..	21	34	1	2	..	..	..	..	....	....
Sibsagar	144	188	127	163	..	..	14	34	2	..	..	..	1	1	178 1 9	102 11 9
Lakhimpur	414	1,074	260	678	..	..	108	369	85	16	9	11	2	..	1,028 9 0	2,072 15 6
Total	612	1,647	442	1,145	1	5	148	467	88	18	11	11	3	1	1,269 6 1	2,773 1 0

It will thus be seen that the number of labourers sent back to their homes was larger in every district than during the previous year—a result which was of course due

to the larger number of contracts cancelled. In every case where a labourer, whose contract was cancelled for permanent incapacity under section 122 of the Act, returned to his home, the usual three months' wages were paid by the employers, the difference required to meet the actual expenses being borne by public funds. The figures given in the last column of the above statement, which show the amounts paid by Government, are not altogether clear; and it is not understood why no such payments were made either in Darrang or in Nowgong, while such a large sum as Rs. 569 was paid in Sylhet in regard to a comparatively small number of coolies. Further enquiries will be made into these points, but of course it is necessarily the case that the payments made by Government to meet the difference between the three months' wages and the actual expenses of repatriation vary according to the remoteness of the district from which repatriation is carried out and of the destinations to which the labourers have to be sent.

Wages.

26. The following two statements give particulars of the wages earned by Act labourers and non-Act coolies, including children. They are based on figures obtained on the occasion of inspections, and in the second table the average wages are given both in the manufacturing and non-manufacturing seasons.

			Monthly wages. Average. Rs.	a.	p.
Cachar	Act	Men	4	7	9
		Women	3	3	1
	Non-Act	Men	4	13	2
		Women	3	8	6
		Children	1	7	9
North Sylhet	Act	Men	4	1	2
		Women	2	13	5
	Non-Act	Men	4	4	9
		Women	3	3	6
		Children	1	13	10
South Sylhet	Act	Men	3	15	2
		Women	3	3	9
	Non-Act	Men	4	4	10
		Women	3	4	7
		Children	1	11	4
Karimganj	Act	Men	5	3	5
		Women	3	1	11
	Non-Act	Men	4	9	1
		Women	3	8	7
		Children	2	5	5
Habiganj	Act	Men	2	12	2
		Women	2	6	6
	Non-Act	Men	3	11	7
		Women	3	3	10
		Children	1	7	6
Kámrúp	Act	Men	4	8	10
		Women	3	9	5
	Non-Act	Men	4	13	2
		Women	3	12	1
		Children	2	7	11
Tezpur	Act	Men	4	13	5
		Women	3	14	0
	Non-Act	Men	5	12	7
		Women	3	13	4
		Children	2	7	0
Mangaldai	Act	Men	5	12	7
		Women	4	4	3
	Non-Act	Men	7	6	6
		Women	4	0	9
		Children	2	2	11
Nowgong	Act	Men	4	15	3
		Women	4	7	7
	Non-Act	Men	5	9	6
		Women	5	3	4
		Children	2	13	10
Sibságar	Act	Men	5	3	3
		Women	3	7	0
	Non-Act	Men	5	14	0
		Women	3	15	1
		Children	2	3	10
Lakhimpur	Act	Men	4	15	6
		Women	4	0	6
	Non-Act	Men	6	7	0
		Women	5	9	3
		Children	2	13	0

			Non-manufacturing or cold season monthly wages. Average. Rs.	a.	p.	Manufacturing or rainy season monthly wages. Average. Rs.	a.	p.
Cachar ..	Act	Men	4	2	3	4	11	7
		Women	2	11	9	3	7	6
	Non-Act	Men	4	10	5	5	7	6
		Women	3	3	8	3	14	9
		Children	1	2	6	2	5	7
North Sylhet*	Act	Men	.....			.....		
		Women	.....			.....		
	Non-Act	Men	.....			.....		
		Women	.....			.....		
		Children	.....			.....		
South Sylhet	Act	Men	.....			.....		
		Women	.....			.....		
	Non-Act	Men	.....			.....		
		Women	.....			.....		
		Children	.....			.....		
Karimganj...	Act	Men	.....			.....		
		Women	.....			.....		
	Non-Act	Men	.....			.....		
		Women	.....			.....		
		Children	.....			.....		
Habiganj ...	Act	Men	.....			.....		
		Women	.....			.....		
	Non-Act	Men	.....			.....		
		Women	.....			.....		
		Children	.....			.....		
Kámrúp ...	Act	Men	4	1	3	5	0	5
		Women	3	4	2	3	14	9
	Non-Act	Men	4	7	8	5	2	9
		Women	3	10	11	3	13	3
		Children	2	10	2	2	5	8
Tezpúr ...	Act	Men	4	11	6	4	15	5
		Women	3	8	9	4	3	4
	Non-Act	Men	5	8	0	6	0	4
		Women	3	7	4	4	3	4
		Children	2	5	9	2	8	3
Mangaldai	Act	Men	5	4	9	6	4	6
		Women	3	8	0	5	0	6
	Non-Act	Men	5	2	0	6	2	2
		Women	3	1	1	5	0	0
		Children	1	14	9	2	7	2
Nowgong...	Act	Men	4	3	11	5	6	7
		Women	3	4	2	5	11	0
	Non-Act	Men	4	15	9	6	3	3
		Women	3	13	7	6	9	2
		Children	2	6	5	3	5	3
Sibságar ..	Act	Men	4	3	2	6	3	5
		Women	3	3	8	3	10	5
	Non-Act	Men	5	4	2	6	7	11
		Women	3	9	0	4	12	2
		Children	2	2	7	2	5	1
Lakhimpur .	Act	Men	4	3	0	5	15	0
		Women	3	10	0	5	2	6
	Non-Act	Men	5	13	9	7	3	0
		Women	4	5	3	6	1	9
		Children	2	13	0	3	1	1

In connection with the low rate of wages shown in some cases, it must of course be remembered that labourers supplement their income by the proceeds derived from the cultivation of paddy and other crops, by hiring out their cattle, and also by themselves working for hire for neighbouring villagers during the cold season, when the garden work is slack. They also do *ticca* work on the gardens for which they are paid extra wages in cash. In many cases, moreover, the rate of wages is affected by periods of voluntary absence from work and by other similar causes.

* Information not given

CHAPTER IV.

OFFENCES, INCLUDING DESERTIONS.

Offences committed by tea garden population.

27. The following figures show the offences committed by the tea garden population during each of the past two years under Act XIII of 1859 and Act I of 1882 respectively (excluding desertions, which are separately dealt with):

District.	Act XIII of 1859.		Act I of 1882. Section 151, garden sardar failing to report himself.		Section 152, garden sardar failing to comply with instructions endorsed on way-bills.		Section 163, employers refusing or omitting to keep registers, &c.		Section 164, employers or other persons obstructing inspection under section 114.		Section 168, employers neglecting to provide hospital accommodation.		Section 171, labourers absent without cause.		Section 172, not taking deserters to police station.		Section 176, employers arresting labourer without sufficient cause.		Section 178, labourer guilty of habitual drunkenness or wilful disregard of sanitary regulations.		Section 183, enticing away, harbouring, or employing labourer under contract.		Section 185, employer refusing to endorse labour contract, &c.		Total.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar ..	71	66	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	9	..	..	7	9
Sylhet ..	12	11	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	4	..	..	11	7
Kámrúp ..	4	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Darrang ..	2	16	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	43	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	9	..	..	42	56
Nowgong ..	2	1	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	..	..	6	5
Sibságar ..	37	27	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	14	..	..	..	..	1	2	13	8	..	..	21	27
Lakhimpur ..	6	9	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	10	..	2	..	..	..	..	9	5	..	..	40	24
Total ..	134	134	18	15	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	67	67	..	2	..	..	1	2	41	39	..	..	127	129

The above figures show that the figures under both Act XIII of 1859 and Act I of 1882 closely correspond with those of the previous year. Under the former Act the number of offences (134) was exactly the same as during 1891, and in the case of the latter it increased from 127 to 129 cases. The variations shown in the several districts do not call for remark.

The following table shows the punishments inflicted for offences under Act XIII of 1859 during each of the past two years:

District.	Number of coolies convicted.		Number of coolies who were ordered to perform their contracts.		Number punished with imprisonment for: Five days.		One week.		Two weeks.		Twenty days.		One month.		Cases withdrawn.		Number of coolies ordered to pay their advances or pay compensation.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar ..	71	66	65	58	..	....	4	3	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	1
Sylhet ..	12	11	9	10	..	..	..	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	....	....
Kámrúp ..	4	4	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	....	....
Darrang ..	2	16	2	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	....
Nowgong ..	2	1	1	.....	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	....	....
Sibságar ..	37	27	25	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	11	9
Lakhimpur ..	6	9	6	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	....
Total ..	134	134	111	111	1	..	4	4	5	4	1	..	1	2	..	3	11	10

It will thus be seen that in the very large majority of cases, coolies were merely ordered to perform their contracts. In cases where sentences of imprisonment were passed, there is no reason to suppose that the punishment inflicted was in any case unduly severe.

As regards Act I of 1882, the results do not call for detailed remarks either in regard to the number of offences, the punishments inflicted, or the nature of the offences committed, except that in one case in the Sibságar district it was found necessary to fine an employer for neglect to provide hospital accommodation. The Deputy Commissioner gives the following particulars of this case:

One manager, Mr. Congdon, of Dholi tea estate in the Jorhát subdivision, was fined Rs. 300 under section 168 of Act I of 1882 for neglecting to provide hospital accommodation and to employ a qualified medical man on a small garden, named Nagajanka, belonging to the same concern at which 60 Act coolies were employed. Finding at inspection that there was no medical officer engaged for

the garden and that no hospital and no medical stores were kept on the estate, Lieutenant Gurdon, Inspector of Labourers, wrote to Mr. Congdon that unless he complied with the law, he would be prosecuted. After two months Lieutenant Gurdon again inspected the garden, but found that his orders had not been carried out. It was found that by way of a hospital a *kacha* building had been raised, the floor of which was damp, consisting of mud recently thrown up to a height of from 6 inches to 9 inches. The building was neither well raised, ventilated, nor lighted, and in no way fulfilled the requirements of rule 125. No qualified medical officer had been engaged for the garden, and medicines and instruments had not been supplied as prescribed by the schedule. Mr. Congdon was then prosecuted, and fined by me as above.

The manager above mentioned, Mr. Congdon, has gained notoriety for himself during the year in another case, a description of which will be found in paragraph 53 below.

The following statement shows the offences against the criminal law committed during each of the past two years by the population of tea gardens :

District.	Penal Code.																					
	Adultery.	Unlawful assembly and affray.	Rioting.	Culpable homicide or attempt to commit culpable homicide.	Murder.	Attempt to commit suicide.	Assault.	Causing hurt.	Grievous hurt.	Theft.	Criminal trespass.	Lurking house trespass.	House trespass.	House-breaking.	Dishonest misappropriation.	Dishonestly receiving stolen property.	Criminal intimidation.	Cheating.	Mischief.	Criminal misappropriation.	Criminal breach of trust.	Laying false complaint.
Cachar	..	5	13	..	1	..	..	1	..	23	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..
Sylhet	..	22	..	..	1	2	5	2	3	16	7	2	..	2	..	16	..	..	5	..	5	..
Kámrúp	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang	..	..	..	..	..	2	4*	1	1	22	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	3†	..	..	..
Nowgong	..	5	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	7	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sibságar	..	3	27	1	..	3	11	6	1	58	..	3	2	8	1	12	..	1	..	..	5	2
Lakhimpur	..	30	12	..	..	3	29	4	5	32	..	..	16	..	9	15	1	..	1‡	..	1	1
Total of 1892	..	65	52	1	2	10	51	15	11	165	10	8	18	10	10	45	1	3	10	..	9	4
„ „ 1891	1	47	106	2	2	7	66	27	22	160	10	11	19	2	..	26	5	2	21	5	7	1

District.	Penal Code—*contd.*																				
	Giving false evidence.	Counterfeit coin.	Desecrating of cemeteries' graves.	Insult.	Wrongful confinement.	Offences against public tranquillity.	Contempt of lawful authority.	Escaping from lawful custody.	Dealing with fire, &c., so as to endanger human life (section 285).	False prosecution.	Defamation (section 500).	Negligent act likely to spread infection.	Causing death by rash act.	Forgery.	Enticing away a married woman.	Outraging female modesty.	Rape.	Total.	Act V of 1861.	Offences under other Acts.	Grand total of all offences.
Cachar	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	53	4	..	59
Sylhet	..	1	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	91	2	13	106
Kámrúp	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Darrang	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57	..	9	66
Nowgong	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	..	..	27
Sibságar	1	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	1	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	158	2	14	174
Lakhimpur	1	1	..	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	167	16	35	218
Total of 1892	2	2§	3	3	20	..	8	4	2	3	1	1	1	..	..	1	1	552	24	72	648
„ „ 1891	3	2	..	7	2	2	15	3	..	1	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	577	43	46	676

This table shows an increase of criminality, as compared with the previous year, in the districts of Darrang, Nowgong, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur, and a decrease in Cachar,

* This includes two cases of assault or use of criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty.

† This includes two cases of mischief by fire or explosive substance with intent to destroy a house, &c.

‡ Mischief by fire.

§ This includes one case of counterfeit documents.

Sylhet, and Kámrúp, the decrease in Cachar being very marked (from 171 to 59 offences). The chief heads under which an increase occurred were "Unlawful assembly and affray" (from 47 to 65 cases), "Dishonestly receiving stolen property" (from 25 to 45 cases), and "Wrongful confinement" (from 2 to 20 cases). On the other hand, a satisfactory decrease is shown under the head "Rioting" (from 106 to 52 cases). The cases of rioting are further noticed in Chapter VII of this report.

The cases of murder and culpable homicide, which occurred in the districts of Cachar, Sylhet, and Sibságar, do not call for special remark. An unusual offence is included in the Sylhet return under the head of "Desecrating coolies' graves." The record of this case will be called for. The Deputy Commissioner of Darrang reports the occurrence of several cases of arson on tea gardens, but in no case was it found possible to secure a conviction.

The following table, which includes cases of desertion, compares the ratio of convictions to tea garden population during each of the past two years:

District	Mean adult garden population		Number convicted of any offence.		Number sent to prison (Jail Report).		Ratio per cent. of imprisonments to convictions.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891	1892.
Cachar	57,392	59,158	330	270	132	149	40	55
Sylhet	53,241	57,942	176	199	135	152	76	76
Kámrúp ..	2,286	2,454	28	3	25	1	89	33
Darrang ...	32,247	35,496	292	312	279	162	95	51
Nowgong ...	10,685	10,860	38	83	25	54	65	65
Sibságar ...	58,772	61,322	407	484	274	298	67	61
Lakhimpur ...	50,689	56,589	458	568	371	479	81	84
Total	265,314	283,819	1,729	1,919	1,241	1,295	71	67

There was thus a considerable increase in convictions in the districts of Nowgong, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur, and in the districts of Nowgong and Lakhimpur the number sent to prison was largely in excess of the figures of the previous year.

28. The following table shows the number of desertions amongst adults, district by district, for each of the past two years.

Provincial and district figures for desertions

District.	Total desertions among adults		Act		Non-Act		Percentage of desertions on strength among					
							Act		Non-Act.		Total adult population	
	1891	1892.	1891	1892	1891	1892	1891	1892.	1891	1892.	1891	1892.
Cachar ...	2,994	3,536	675	920	2,319	2,616	8 82	12 55	4 65	5·03	5 21	5 97
Sylhet ...	3 024	3,986	546	797	2,478	3,189	6 85	11 12	5·48	6·28	5 68	6·85
Kámrúp ...	195	357	75	129	120	228	9·46	13·46	8 10	15 05	8 58	14·52
Darrang ...	1,067	1,203	748	697	319	506	3·56	2·93	2 83	4 32	3·30	3·38
Nowgong ...	314	446	130	214	184	232	3 54	5·37	2 61	3 37	2 93	4·10
Sibságar ...	1,576	1,995	995	1,292	581	703	2 67	3·32	2 67	3 14	2·68	3 24
Lakhimpur ...	1,510	2,054	1,154	1,492	356	562	3 78	4 32	1 74	2 53	2 97	3·61
Total ...	10,680	13,577	4,323	5,541	6,357	8,036	3 97	4 74	4 05	4 80	4·02	4 78

The above figures show a very considerable increase in desertions during the year under report as compared with the previous year, and this increase occurs equally under

the head of Act and non-Act coolies, and was common to all districts of the province except Darrang (in the case of Act coolies). Similarly, the percentages of desertions as regards both Act and non-Act coolies have increased in the case of every district, with the exception just noticed, with the result that the provincial percentage has advanced in the case of Act coolies from 3·97 to 4·74, and in the case of non-Act coolies from 4·05 to 4·80. At the same time it should be noted that the increase in the percentage of desertions for the province as a whole is not larger than might have been expected, seeing that the labour force increased during the year under report by 5·68 per cent. as compared with the preceding year, whereas the general percentage of desertions to the strength of the adult population advanced only from 4·02 to 4·78. The figures given below show that a similar explanation applies to every district with the exception of Kámrúp and Nowgong, in the case of which districts the figures are comparatively small, and the results may have been influenced by the operations in connection with the Assam-Bengal Railway :

District.	Percentage of increase or decrease of labour force as compared with the previous year.	Percentage of increase of desertions as compared with the previous year.
Cachar	+3·30	+ ·76
Sylhet	+6·87	+1·18
Kámrúp	−5·15	+5·94
Darrang	+7·84	+ ·08
Nowgong	−2·28	+1·17
Sibságar	+4·35	+ ·56
Lakhimpur	+9·30	+ ·64
Total	+5·68	+ ·76

Arrests and convictions.

29. The following table shows the number of desertions in each district, the number of warrants issued for the arrest of the deserters, and the number of convictions obtained :

District.	Number deserted (Act labourers).	Number of warrants issued.	Number arrested					Number convicted.
			By warrant.	By manager.	By police.	By summons.	Total.	
Cachar... ...	920	95	24	102	16	2	144	135
Sylhet	797	75	32	45	.....	.....	77	76
Kámrúp ...	129	3	1	6	.....	.....	7	1
Darrang ...	697	147	35	124	.....	.....	159	155
Nowgong ...	214	19	3	44	9	.....	56	50
Sibságar ...	1,292	130	48	115	118	.....	281	259
Lakhimpur ...	1,492	52	15	316	.....	.....	331	316
Total of 1892 ...	5,541	521	158	752	143	2	1,055	992
" " 1891 ...	*4,323*	*630*	*218*	*647*	*28*	*3*	*896*	*797*

In spite, therefore, of the considerable increase which took place in the number of desertions amongst Act labourers, the number of warrants issued for their arrest shows a substantial decrease (from 630 during the previous year to 521 during the year under report). On the other hand, the number of such deserters arrested by managers increased from 647 to 752 and by the police from 28 to 143. Lastly, the number of Act labourers convicted of the offence of desertion increased from 797 during the previous year to 992 during the year under report.

Proportion of desertions to labour force on healthy and unhealthy gardens, respectively

30. In accordance with the orders contained in paragraph 13 of the Resolution of the Government of India, reviewing the Provincial Report for 1891 (Revenue and Agricultural Department Resolution No. 2788-2790—66, dated the 28th November 1892), the following figures are given showing the proportion of desertions to labour force in each district in the case of healthy and unhealthy gardens, respectively :

District.		Mean strength.		Number of desertions.		Percentage of desertions to labour force.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.
Cachar ...	*Healthy gardens* ...	*84,710*	*85,341*	*1,552*	*1,870*	*1·83*	*2·19*	*4·02*
	Unhealthy " ...	18,986	19,372	599	569	3·15	2·93	6·08
Sylhet ...	*Healthy* " ...	*82,355*	*85,309*	*2,191*	*2,515*	*2·66*	*2·94*	*5·60*
	Unhealthy " ...	12,313	12,583	259	387	2·10	3·07	5·17
Kámrúp ...	*Healthy* " ...	*1,476*	*1,392*	*63*	*102*	*4·26*	*7·32*	*11·58*
	Unhealthy " ...	2,281	2,267	176	170	7·71	7·49	15·20
Darrang ...	*Healthy* " ...	*27,895*	*29,538*	*321*	*402*	*1·15*	*1·36*	*2·51*
	Unhealthy " ...	21,652	22,141	372	280	1·71	1·26	2·97
Nowgong ...	*Healthy* " ...	*11,460*	*11,195*	*196*	*185*	*1·71*	*1·65*	*3·36*
	Unhealthy " ...	5,405	5,633	69	88	1·28	1·56	2·84
Sibságar ...	*Healthy* " ...	*76,893*	*79,140*	*781*	*726*	*1·01*	*·91*	*1·92*
	Unhealthy " ...	22,233	22,651	408	475	1·83	2·09	3·92
Lakhimpur ...	*Healthy* " ...	*65,411*	*67,263*	*883*	*781*	*1·34*	*1·16*	*2·50*
	Unhealthy " ...	18,555	19,969	388	455	2·14	2·27	4·41
Total ...	*Healthy* " ...	*350,200*	*359,184*	*5,987*	*6,581*	*1·70*	*1·83*	*3·53*
	Unhealthy " ...	101,425	104,616	2,271	2,424	2·23	2·31	4·54
Grand total		451,631	463,803	8,258	9,005	1·82	1·94	3·76

31. The following tables show the punishments inflicted during each of the past two years for desertions from healthy and unhealthy gardens, respectively :

Punishments for desertions in the case of healthy and unhealthy gardens, respectively.

A.—From healthy Gardens.

District.	Number of Act labourers convicted of the offence of desertion.		Number punished with imprisonment for																			
			Two months.		Six weeks.		One month.		Three weeks.		Fifteen days.		Two weeks.		Ten days.		One week.		One day.		Others.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar	70	125	3	4	1	1	18	77	..	..	..	2	34	14	..	2	7	7	7	15	..	3
Sylhet	14	71	..	..	..	1	1	3	5	8	..	7	2	23	2	18	2	3	..	4	2	4
Kámrúp	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang	166*	851	..	2	..	..	48	9	10	7	..	..	34	26	29	1	50	11	..	2	..	..
Nowgong	14	26	1	2	..	..	2	11	..	..	5	7	2	6	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..
Sibságar	179	137	..	3	2	1	54	50	17	19	11	5	39	24	3	3	39	11	9	16	5	5
Lakhimpur	193	180	2	3	..	3	16	25	38	34	44	24	30	31	30	22	7	20	24	6	8	12
Total ..	645	624	6	14	3	6	140	175	70	68	60	45	143	124	64	46	89	52	40	43	15	24

B.—From unhealthy Gardens.

District.	Number of Act labourers convicted of the offence of desertion.		Number punished with imprisonment for																			
			Two months.		Six weeks.		One month.		Three weeks.		Fifteen days.		Two weeks.		Ten days.		One week.		One day.		Others.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar	11	10	..	..	..	..	9	8	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Sylhet	17	5	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	1	4	..	11	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
Kámrúp	18	1	..	..	1	..	5	1	9	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang	29	70†	..	2	..	..	16	2	..	2	..	..	5	11	..	3	8	12	..	11	..	1
Nowgong	6	24	..	1	1	..	..	16	1	..	..	1	4	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sibságar	24	122	..	6	..	2	6	44	5	6	6	7	2	26	..	2	4	10	1	14	..	5
Lakhimpur	47	136	1	..	1	4	9	11	2	23	7	14	12	59	..	12	13	10	1	2	1	1
Total	152	368	1	9	3	6	45	84	18	31	13	23	28	104	12	17	28	32	3	27	1	9

The figures above given do not call for detailed remarks, and the Chief Commissioner believes it to be the case that in imposing punishments for desertions, the officers concerned generally pay due regard to the state of health on the garden from which the desertions have taken place. Thus the Deputy Commissioner of the Sylhet district writes :

In punishing for desertions, due regard was had to the state of health on the garden.

And the Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar reports :

The light sentences of a week's imprisonment and under were inflicted in cases in which coolies established pleas of illness or of low wages earned on account of bad health, and in some cases on new coolies who had deserted from remote gardens. From an examination of a large number of records, I am of opinion that subordinate magistrates have shown great discrimination in passing sentence.

In some of the district reports it is remarked that in no cases of desertions from unhealthy gardens was the plea put forward that the desertion was due to the unhealthiness of the garden or to panic. If the inference intended to be drawn from these remarks is that because no such plea was put forward at the time of trial, the desertions were

* Includes 15 persons who were ordered to return to the garden to fulfil their contracts.
† " 27 " " " go back to the garden without imprisonment.
‡ " 29 " " sent back to garden.

not in any way due to the causes mentioned, the Chief Commissioner would observe that such an inference is obviously untenable, and that it by no means follows that because a deserter, when placed on trial, does not plead the unhealthiness of the garden as an excuse for desertion, the desertions had no connection with such unhealthiness. It is, however, unnecessary to pursue this matter, because, as above stated, there is no reason to suppose that the fact of the unhealthiness of a garden is not allowed due weight by officers when trying offences of this nature.

Nationality and sex of deserters.

32. The nationality and sex of deserters are shown below :

Nationality.	Sex.	Number of deserters.				Total.		Percentage of desertions on annual strength among					
		Act.		Non-Act.				Act labourers.		Non-Act labourers.		Total.	
		1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Bengal	Men	417	469	779	943	1,196	1,412	4·55	5·15	3·80	4·47	3·52	4·07
	Women	210	222	650	795	860	1,017	2·38	2·34	3·28	3·92		
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Men	532	722	1,353	1,497	1,885	2,219	11·93	12·51	8·63	8·85	7·86	8·05
	Women	193	313	889	1,083	1,082	1,396	6·17	7·89	6·09	6·55		
Behar	Men	231	394	322	366	553	760	6·38	8·53	5·23	5·73	4·57	5·81
	Women	84	162	184	250	268	412	2·99	4·03	3·43	2·62		
Chota Nagpur ..	Men	1,571	1,767	946	1,225	2,517	2,992	4·31	4·74	2·93	3·54	2·90	3·66
	Women	578	669	694	939	1,272	1,608	1·80	2·01	2·35	2·99		
Nepal	Men	51	48	9	18	60	66	91·23	65·02	5·65	11·86	22·70	22·35
	Women	13	8	3	2	16	10	61·90	43·04	3·18	2·02		
Madras.. ..	Men	134	248	36	115	170	363	6·44	9·05	2·85	5·86	3·30	6·04
	Women	26	115	17	67	43	182	1·49	4·60	1·30	3·57		
Bombay ..	Men	1	2	5	4	6	6	2·63	6·29	3·21	2·21	2·76	2·93
	Women	1	....	3	6	4	6	5·00	....	1·96	3·64		
Assam	Men	231	167	408	612	639	779	8·56	6·92	5·39	3·24	5·61	6·73
	Women	50	28	59	76	109	104	4·82	2·10	3·05	3·94		
Central Provinces ..	Men	....	155	....	17	....	172	....	16·75	....	3·54	..	9·61
	Women	....	52	....	14	....	66	....	7·43	....	3·85		
Orissa	Men	....	....	....	4	....	4	....	....	....	5·19	..	3·40
	Women	....	....	....	3	....	3	....	....	....	2·35		
Total	Men	3,168	3,972	3,858	4,801	7,026	8,773	5·41	6·36	4·59	5·38	4·93	5·78
	Women	1,155	1,569	2,499	3,235	3,654	4,804	2·31	2·89	3·43	4·12	2·98	3·62
Grand total ..	.....	4,323	5,541	6,357	8,036	10,680	13,577	3·93	4·47	4·06	4·80	4·02	4·78

The above figures show an increased tendency to desert amongst immigrants from all localities of recruitment except Nepal, the increase being especially marked in the case of immigrants from Madras. In regard to the results, so far as Ganjam coolies are concerned, the Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong writes :

The Madras coolies show the largest percentage of desertions, and the Sanitary Commissioner of Assam, in inspecting the Udmari and Amlokhi tea gardens on the 11th February 1893, remarked that Ganjam coolies should not be allowed on these gardens. Regarding Udmari he writes :—"The manager states that a batch of Ganjam coolies, who were recruited for this garden, proved very unsatisfactory. They were not strong on arrival ; they could do but little work ; they were lazy and often sick, and were a cause of loss to the garden." A batch of 5 were sent in to me to have their names cut under section 122 within three months of their arrival. A more miserable and sickly-looking lot I never saw. They had to be sent in a cart, as they could not walk, and I had to send them to Silghat also in a cart to be put on board the steamer. How they were ever recruited is a puzzle to me. It was a simple swindling sending them up, and I should think it most probable that none of them lived to get home again. They were all coast Ganjamese. The hillmen are good coolies, but the coastmen should never be allowed to be recruited.

Under the head of "Immigrants from Nepal" the results in Lakhimpur did not correspond with those shown in the above table, and the Deputy Commissioner writes :

Nepalese show the highest percentage, with 65·53 amongst men and 91·66 amongst women. In fact, Nepalese do not work satisfactorily on tea gardens in this province. In the previous year there had been some attempt in this district to introduce Nepalese into gardens, but the attempt has not been a success.

33. It may be noted here that the figures given in the preceding paragraphs do not in all cases correspond with the statistics contained in the Jail and Police Administration Reports under the head of "Imprisonments and convictions for offences under Act XIII of 1859 and Act I of 1882." It is scarcely necessary to describe in detail the points of difference, but the matter will be enquired into and cleared up in communication with the Inspector General of Police and Jails.

Discrepancies between statistics and those given in the Jail and Police Administration Reports.

CHAPTER V.

VITAL STATISTICS AND HEALTH OF GARDEN POPULATION.

34. The following figures show the birth rate per mille during each of the past two years, calculated on the mean strength of adult female labourers :

Birth rate.

	1891.	1892.
Cachar	110·9	94·[illegible]
Sylhet	98·0	80·5
Kámrúp	85·5	66·9
Darrang	76·4	65·7
Nowgong	83·6	75·4
Sibságar	94·6	91·6
Lakhimpur	83·5	79·7
Total	94·2	83·5

There was thus a more or less considerable decrease in the birth rate in the case of every district, with the result that the provincial rate has fallen from 94·2 in the previous year to 83·5 per mille during the year under report, but there can be no doubt that the registration of births on gardens is so defective as to render the statistics practically worthless for any purpose whatsoever. As was observed in the report for the previous year, the Chief Commissioner can only look to Inspectors to do all that lies in their power with a view to effect improvement; and Mr. Ward is not without hope that if his scheme for the future inspection of gardens is approved by the Government of India and brought into operation, it will be possible to do something in the direction of bringing these statistics into closer approximation to the facts.

35. The following table distributes the births amongst the several nationalities, and strikes the ratio on the mean strength of adult female labourers :

Brith rate according to nationality.

District	Bengal.			North-Western Provinces and Oudh.			Behar.			Chota Nagpur			Nepal.		
	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.
Cachar	10,365	941	90·7	5,142	621	120·7	2,692	292	108·4	7,607	663	86·1	71	2	28·1
Sylhet ..	5,889	471	79·9	11,019	884	80·2	2,725	194	71·1	6,921	615	88·7	9	..	....
Kámrúp	576	46	79·8	45	3	66·6	18	3	166·6	446	20	44·8	....	..	....
Darrang	2,996	98	32·7	1,103	88	79·7	609	77	126·4	3,026	594	68·8	30	3	100·
Nowgong	692	88	127·2	172	10	58·1	194	5	25·8	3,091	196	63·4	....	..	....
Sibságar	5,546	809	145·8	2,142	74	34·5	1,900	119	62·6	17,715	1,552	87·6	3	..	....
Lakhimpur ..	3,245	151	46·5	834	42	50·3	992	36	36·2	19,871	1,779	89·5	5	..	....
Total of 1892 ..	29,311	2,604	88·8	20,459	1,722	84·1	9,132	726	79·5	64,377	5,419	84·1	119	5	42·0
" " 1891 ..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	113·4	[illegible]	[illegible]	105·3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	114	5	[illegible]

District.	Madras.			Bombay.			Assam.			Central Provinces.			Orissa.			Total.		
	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.
Cachar ..	527	11	20 8	181	6	33 1	78	2	25·6	143	9	62·9	....	.	..	26,899	2,547	94·8
Sylhet ..	2,086	142	68·0	6	..	..	20	12	600	194	11	56 7	101	4	39 6	28,980	2,333	80·5
Kámrúp ..	26	..	..	. ..	..	..	154	13	84·4	1	..	..	....	..	..	1,269	85	66·9
Darrang ..	575	57	99·1	. ..	..	..	1,749	99	56 6	160	26	162 5	....	..	..	15,850	1,042	65·7
Nowgong ..	105	8	76·2	....	..	..	541	47	86·9	41	11	268·3	....	..	..	4,839	365	75·4
Sibságar ..	543	25	46 0	8	..	..	594	45	75 7	196	2	10·2	....	..	..	28,653	2,626	91·6
Lakhimpur ..	474	26	54·9	....	..	..	100	9	62·5	316	19	60 1	....	..	..	25,848	2,062	79 7
Total of 1892 ..	4,338	269	62·0	195	6	30·7	3,247	227	69 9	1,055	78	73 9	101	4	39·6	132,339	11,060	83·5
„ „ *1891* ..	*3,090*	*171*	*55 3*	*176*	*4*	*22 7*	*3,053*	*262*	*85·8*	....	..		*51*	*3*	*58·8*	*122,702*	*11,557*	*94 2*

36. The statistics of mortality in each district for each half-year separately are given in the table below with the corresponding figures of the previous year :

Death rate for the year.

District.	Deaths among all classes of labourers including children.						Ratio of deaths per mille.					
							Half-yearly.				Annual.	
	First half-year.		Second half-year.		Total.		First half-year.		Second half-year.			
	1891	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891	1892.
Cachar	1,883	2,045	2,008	1,997	3,891	4,042	18·5	19·7	19·5	19·0	38·0	38·7
Sylhet	1,472	1,578	1,757	1,953	3,229	3,531	17·1	16·6	19·1	19·9	36 7	36·5
Kámrúp	130	125	100	137	230	262	39·0	33·2	27 5	37·4	66 5	70·6
Darrang	878	1,397	1,049	1,354	1,927	2,751	19·6	28·1	22 4	26·2	42·0	54·3
Nowgong	307	495	365	418	672	913	18·9	29·4	21 8	24 8	40·7	54·2
Sibságar	1,333	1,941	1,725	2,041	3,058	3,982	14 1	19 5	17 8	20·0	31·9	39·5
Lakhimpur	1,202	1,619	1,623	2,150	2,825	3,769	15 8	19·3	20 3	24·6	36 1	43·9
Total	7,205	9,200	8,627	10,050	15,832	19,250	17·1	20·3	19·7	21·6	36·8	41·9

It will thus be seen that the annual death rate for the year under report was higher than that for the previous year in all the labour districts of the province except Sylhet, the increase being specially marked in the Assam Valley districts. This result was doubtless largely due to the increased number of new and unacclimatized coolies in consequence of the larger importation of the past two years, and also to the fact that in many cases the coolies imported were of poor physique. The occurrence of outbreaks of cholera and influenza is given by some officers as a further reason for the increase of mortality. It is true that the year under report was a peculiarly unhealthy one amongst the general population of the country ; but the Chief Commissioner fears that the main cause which operated to produce the increased rate of mortality amongst the garden population is to be found in the recruitment, during recent years, of coolies of poor physique, who were unable to stand the change of climate to which they were subjected, or to perform the work expected from them. Of the correctness of this statement there is abundant evidence, some of which will be reproduced in later paragraphs of the present report.

37. The following table shows the mortality amongst both Act and non-Act adults during each of the past two years :

Death rate amongst adults.

District.	Number of deaths among adults.						Ratio per mille of deaths to annual strength.						Annual strength of total adult population of both Act and non-Act labourers.	
	Act.		Non-Act.		Total.		Act.		Non-Act.		Total.			
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar	633	798	1,776	2,003	2,409	2,801	83·2	108·7	35·7	38·5	41·8	47·4	57,392	59,153
Sylhet	390	397	1,756	1,996	2,146	2,393	49·2	55·3	38·5	39·2	40·1	41·1	53,341	57,942
Kámrúp	91	110	81	99	172	209	114·8	115·0	54·8	65·8	75·2	85·1	2,286	2,454
Darrang	1,049	1,680	342	453	1,382	2,133	49·2	70·6	30·3	43·2	42·5	60·0	32,248	35,496
Nowgong	208	285	270	343	478	628	57·0	71·6	38·1	49·7	44·7	57·8	10,685	10,860
Sibságar	1,561	2,162	527	658	2,088	2,820	41·8	55·5	24·2	29·4	35·4	45·9	58,772	61,322
Lakhimpur	1,493	2,077	614	764	2,107	2,841	49·1	60·1	29·9	34·4	41·4	50·0	50,689	56,589
Total	5,416	7,509	5,366	6,316	10,782	13,825	49·8	64·3	34·1	37·7	40·5	48·7	265,315	283,819

These figures disclose a lamentable increase in the mortality amongst both Act and non-Act adults during the year under report, which was common to all districts of the province. The following explanations of this result are given by Deputy Commissioners :

The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar (Mr. Herald) writes :

From the above figures it appears that the total increase to the death rate was shared by both Act and non-Act adults, the rate among Act adults having advanced by 25·5 and that among non-Act adults by 2·8 per mille. The increase in the case of the former is due to the large importation during the year of a bad type of coolies from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and Behar, among whom deaths and desertions are very common almost everywhere. It is a known fact that the contractors, failing to procure supplies of a better class, palm off decrepit specimens of humanity, and it is no wonder that there should be such losses by deaths and desertions.

The Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet (Mr. O'Brien) reports :

The high death rate observable on some gardens is due to the practice of importing cheap and bad coolies, *e.g.*, a North-Wester costs about Rs. 15, and is likely to die in his first year, whereas a good jungly coolie, who thrives in this climate, cannot be imported usually under Rs. 100. Now, out of every 9 North-Westers costing Rs. 135, 3 may possibly die in the first year. The other 6 will by that time be acclimatized, and will have cost the same as 3 junglies, say, Rs. 300. This gives a balance of 3 men to the credit of the garden.

The Deputy Commissioner of Darrang (Mr. Anderson) writes :

The death rate increased on almost every garden in the district. This was partly due to an outbreak of cholera last spring (and this chiefly affected gardens which have not imported much labour this year), but chiefly to the extremely poor type of coolie imported in large numbers this year.

Mr. Anderson adds—

The enormous mortality among Act coolies is bad enough as it stands. But it has been chiefly among the new coolies. If the history of particular gangs be looked up, it will be seen that the percentage among them is simply too shocking for words to describe.

The Deputy Commissioners of Kámrúp and Nowgong (Messrs. Tennon and Kennedy) express their opinion that the increased mortality was due to epidemics of cholera and influenza, and the Deputy Commissioners of Sibságar and Lakhimpur (Messrs. Monahan and Greenshields) make no remarks on the subject.

The conclusion at which the Chief Commissioner has arrived has already been stated in the foregoing paragraph, and the matter is further referred to in paragraph 43.

38. The table below shows the recorded causes of deaths which occurred amongst Act labourers during each of the past two years :

Causes of deaths amongst Act labourers.

District.		Mean strength of Act labourers employed in 1892.		Deaths from						Total of columns 4 to 9.			Annual ratio of deaths per mille.
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Jungle fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Cachar	1892 ..	7,204	7,417	192	177	160	54	56	150	309	489	798	108·7
	1891 ..	*8,020*	*7,399*	*133*	*108*	*113*	*23*	*44*	*212*	*216*	*417*	*633*	*83·2*
Sylhet	1892 ..	7,426	6,962	48	85	56	43	11	154	186	211	397	55·3
	1891 ..	*8,192*	*7,646*	*56*	*68*	*44*	*57*	*23*	*142*	*196*	*194*	*390*	*49·2*
Kámrúp	1892 ..	932	974	43	5	9	2	31*	20	46	64	110	115·0
	1891 ..	*745*	*842*	*6*	*15*	*7*	*3*	*42*	*18*	*44*	*47*	*91*	*114·9*
Darrang	1892 ..	23,256	24,257	322	311	349	84	271	343	811	869	1,680	70·6
	1891 ..	*20,116*	*21,857*	*218*	*188*	*83*	*57*	*193*	*301*	*450*	*590*	*1,040*	*49·2*
Nowgong	1892 ..	3,907	4,063	31	56	15	8	17	158†	145	140	285	71·6
	1891 ..	*3,488*	*3,770*	*56*	*31*	*8*	*6*	*27*	*80*	*88*	*120*	*208*	*57·0*
Sibságar	1892 ..	38,746	39,010	402	441	141	110	118	950‡	1,041	1,121	2,162	55·5
	1891 ..	*36,385*	*37,785*	*180*	*357*	*137*	*70*	*101*	*716*	*651*	*910*	*1,561*	*41·8*
Lakhimpur	1892 ..	33,552	35,289	405	542	108	53	271	698	898	1,179	2,077	60·1
	1891 ..	*28,997*	*31,526*	*169*	*390*	*173*	*83*	*217*	*461*	*650*	*843*	*1,493*	*49·1*
Total of	1892 ..	115,025	117,973	1,443	1,617	847	354	775	2,473	3,436	4,073	7,509	64·2
	1891 ..	*105,943*	*110,825*	*818*	*1,157*	*565*	*299*	*647*	*1,930*	*2,995*	*3,121*	*5,416*	*49·8*
	1890 ..	*100,367*	*102,684*	*1,097*	*1,192*	*603*	*367*	*394*	*2,000*	*2,606*	*3,047*	*5,653*	*55·6*

Taking the province as a whole, an increase occurred, as compared with the previous year, in the number of deaths under all heads of disease, the increase being especially great under the heads of "Cholera," "Dysentery," "Jungle fever," and "Other causes." As regards the district of Cachar, which shows an increase under all heads except "Other causes," the Deputy Commissioner makes no remarks beyond referring to the unusual prevalence of dysentery, fever, and dropsy throughout the rains.

Commenting on the figures for the district of Sylhet, where an increase of mortality is especially observable under the heads of "Dysentery" and "Jungle fever," the Deputy Commissioner writes :

The past year was marked by the prevalence of fever in an epidemic form in almost all parts of the district. Cholera and dysentery also caused many deaths in the interior of the district. The above statements go to show that many Act coolies died from dysentery, while among the non-Act coolies (both adults and children) dysentery and fever prevailed. In North Sylhet, especially on the Jaintia side, many coolies died from cholera, contracted mostly from the neighbouring villages in which the disease prevailed.

In Kámrúp a considerable increase occurred in the number of deaths due to cholera, which was due to outbreaks of that disease on certain gardens. In the remaining districts of the Assam Valley a large increase of mortality took place.

The Deputy Commissioner of Darrang writes :

The table tells its own tale. It is quite clear that though cholera accounted for many deaths, the huge death roll of the year was chiefly due to anæmia and sickly new immigrants. This will more clearly appear when individual unhealthy gardens are considered.

In Nowgong the general results are affected by the occurrence of forty-six deaths due to influenza, which was prevalent in that district during the year under report. The Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar makes no remarks, although a more or less considerable increase occurred under every head of disease, and the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur confines his observations to the results under the head of *anæmia*, as to which he writes :

Particular attention is now given to the diagnosis and treatment of anæmia or *anchylostomiasis* The Civil Surgeon during the inspection of gardens takes special care to see that the native doctors understand what *beri-beri* is. There is now hardly any garden in this district which is not supervised by a European medical officer, and better results are expected gradually.

* Includes 14 deaths from *anchylostomiasis* or *kála-azár*.
† " 46 " " influenza.
‡ " 207 " " "

39. The table below shows the recorded causes of deaths amongst adult non-Act coolies during each of the past two years :

Causes of deaths amongst non-Act coolies.

District.		Mean strength of non-Act coolies employed in 1892.		Deaths from						Total of columns 4 to 9			Annual ratio of deaths per mille.
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Jungle fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Cachar	1892 ..	51,474	52,211	221	379	360	95	21	927	1,122	881	2,003	38·5
	1891 ..	*48,812*	*50,554*	*378*	*262*	*383*	*65*	*31*	*657*	*885*	*891*	*1,776*	*35·7*
Sylhet	1892 ..	49,581	51,915	212	484	375	210	52	663	878	1,118	1,996	39·2
	1891 ..	*44,010*	*46,634*	*281*	*359*	*293*	*234*	*50*	*539*	*727*	*1,029*	*1,756*	*38·5*
Kámrúp	1892 ..	1,553	1,450	20	3	20	..	48*	8	53	46	99	65·8
	1891 ..	*1,429*	*1,557*	*11*	*8*	*12*	*1*	*47*	*2*	*51*	*30*	*81*	*54·8*
Darrang	1892 ..	11,586	11,893	95	68	53	18	38	181	250	203	453	38·5
	1891 ..	*11,257*	*11,266*	*136*	*42*	*40*	*33*	*45*	*46*	*186*	*156*	*342*	*30·3*
Nowgong	1892 ..	7,014	6,737	27	51	39	16	19†	191	213	130	343	49·7
	1891 ..	*7,017*	*7,095*	*38*	*22*	*60*	*9*	*8*	*133*	*134*	*136*	*270*	*38·4*
Sibságar	1892 ..	21,934	22,953	91	99	60	13	28	367	580	278	658	29·4
	1891 ..	*21,576*	*21,799*	*78*	*90*	*52*	*22*	*16*	*269*	*271*	*256*	*527*	*24·2*
Lakhimpur	1892 ..	21,814	22,523	116	125	76	36	76	335	358	406	764	34·4
	1891 ..	*20,148*	*20,708*	*57*	*125*	*55*	*35*	*75*	*267*	*271*	*343*	*614*	*29·9*
Total	1892 ..	164,957	169,684	782	1,209	983	388	282	2,672	3,254	3,062	6,316	37·7
	1891 ..	*154,249*	*159,614*	*979*	*908*	*895*	*399*	*272*	*1,913*	*2,525*	*2,841*	*5,366*	*34·1*
	1890 ..	*147,328*	*149,847*	*799*	*652*	*717*	*259*	*90*	*1,773*	*2,225*	*2,065*	*4,290*	*28·8*

This table shows an increase of mortality amongst non-Act adults in the province generally under every head of disease except cholera and dropsy, and more especially under the heads of "Dysentery," "Jungle fever," and "Other causes."

The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar notices that several gardens were visited during the year under report by small-pox, which accounts for several of the deaths under the head "Other causes."

40. The statement below shows the death rate amongst children (that is, from birth to the age of sixteen years) during each of the past two years :

Death rate amongst children.

District.	Mean strength of children in 1892.		Deaths from						Total of columns 4 to 9.			Total of 1891.	Annual ratio of deaths per mille.	
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Jungle fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.		1892.	1891.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Cachar	45,017	45,085	175	234	237	49	4	542	614	627	1,241	1,482	27·5	33·1
Sylhet	37,660	39,015	100	254	373	49	14	348	514	624	1,138	1,083	29·5	31·3
Kámrúp	1,272	1,235	11	6	20	..	11‡	5	26	27	53	58	42·3	49·0
Darrang	14,707	15,529	134	103	81	57	43	220	336	282	618	545	40·9	40·1
Nowgong	5,943	6,028	16	72	41	5	5§	146	137	148	285	194	47·7	33·6
Sibságar	38,447	39,834	79	276	262	27	22	496	520	642	1,162	970	29·6	26·3
Lakhimpur	28,600	29,420	60	184	211	25	68	380	363	565	928	718	31·8	26·1
Total of 1892	171,648	176,146	575	1,129	1,225	192	167	2,137	2,510	2,915	5,425	..	31·1	..
" " *1891*	*161,633*	*166,026*	*582*	*897*	*1,153*	*252*	*140*	*2,026*	*2,385*	*2,665*	*5,050*	..	..	*30·7*

It will thus be seen that the mortality amongst children showed an increase under every head of disease except cholera and dropsy. On the other hand, the death rate per mille does not show as large a proportionate increase as in the case of adults, and

* Includes 42 deaths from *kála-azár.*
† " 15 " " *anchylostomiasis* and *beri-beri.*
‡ " 10 " " *kála-azár.*
§ " 3 " " *anchylostomiasis* and *beri-beri.*

the districts of Cachar, Sylhet, and Kámrúp show an absolute decrease in the rate as compared with the previous year ; but it must be remembered that no great reliance can be placed on the figures, which are less trustworthy than in the case of adults.

Order of demerit as regards death rate.

41. The following is the order of demerit of the various districts both with regard to the mortality amongst the three different classes of the labour force and the total mortality :

District	Order of mortality among			
	Act adults.	Non-Act adults.	Children.	Total.
Cachar	2	5	7	6
Sylhet	7	4	6	7
Kámrúp	1	1	2	1
Darrang	4	3	3	2
Nowgong	3	2	1	3
Sibságar	6	7	5	5
Lakhimpur	5	6	4	4

The noteworthy point in the above statement is that as regards the total mortality, Cachar and Sylhet have improved their position, whereas Sibságar and Lakhimpur have retrograded ; Kámrúp, Darrang, and Nowgong hold the same relative position, judged by the total mortality, as they did during the previous year.

Mortality according to country of origin.

42. The statement below shows the mortality distributed according to nationality, and gives figures for adults only :

Nationality.	Sex.	Deaths amongst adults of both classes.		Ratio per mille of deaths to annual strength.		Annual strength of adults of both Act and non-Act labourers.	
		1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Bengal ...	Men ...	927	1,123	32·1	38·0	58,273	59,491
	Women ...	947	1,138				
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Men ...	1,092	1,393	52·7	56·1	37,877	42,697
	Women ...	916	1,128				
Behar ...	Men ...	476	669	49·6	58·0	17,949	20,084
	Women ...	418	499				
Chota Nagpur ...	Men ...	2,752	3,388	41·1	48·9	1,30,623	1,36,058
	Women ...	2,622	3,269				
Nepal ...	Men ...	10	9	48·5	32·3	331	340
	Women ...	6	2				
Madras ...	Men ...	188	380	56·4	80·3	6,434	9,024
	Women ...	176	348				
Bombay ...	Men ...	3	8	16·5	29·4	365	408
	Women ...	3	4				
Assam ...	Men ...	148	187	18·3	21·4	13,344	13,075
	Women ...	97	94				
Central Provinces ...	Men ...	...	111	...	73·1	...	2,426
	Women ...	...	71				
Orissa ...	Men ...	1	1	8·3	21·7	117	213
	Women ...	...	3				
Total ...	Men ...	5,597	7,269	39·2	47·9	142,613	151,480
	Women ...	5,185	6,556	42·2	49·4	122,702	132,339
Grand total ...	...	10,782	13,825	40·5	48·7	265,315	283,819

In regard to the immigrants from the four main localities of recruitment, *viz.*, Bengal, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Behar, and Chota Nagpur, it will be seen that the greatest proportionate mortality occurred amongst immigrants from Behar, next come the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, then Chota Nagpur, and lastly Bengal. Behar and the North-Western Provinces and Oudh have therefore changed places in this respect as compared with the previous year. The mortality rate amongst Madras coolies shows a considerable and unsatisfactory increase (from 56·4 per mille in the previous year to 80·3 per mille in the year under report).

Proportion of unhealthy gardens in each district.

43. The following statement shows the proportion of unhealthy gardens in each district. All gardens on which ten or more deaths have occurred amongst the total population, Act or non-Act, or Act and non-Act taken together, and the death rate on which exceeds 7 per cent. are classed as unhealthy gardens.

District.	Number of gardens.		Number of unhealthy gardens.		Percentage of unhealthy gardens.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cachar	187	186	25	20	13·4	10·7
Sylhet	118	119	12	16	10·2	13·4
Kámrúp	50	50	6	7	12·0	14·0
Darrang	89	90	15	33	16·8	36·6
Nowgong	59	56	8	11	13·5	19·6
Sibságar	224	223	12	32	5·4	14·3
Lakhimpur	145	143	11	24	7·6	16·7
Total	872	867	89	143	10·2	16·4

Thus the proportion of unhealthy gardens for the province as a whole shows a very considerable increase as compared with the previous year, which was especially marked in the districts of Darrang, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur, Cachar being the only district which shows a decrease. As regards the present system of classifying gardens as unhealthy, the Chief Commissioner would invite attention to the remarks made in paragraph 39 of the Provincial Report for 1891. Mr. Ward desires to add that he entirely accepts the view of the Government of India that the sections of the Act which relate to unhealthy gardens should be applied with greater strictness than has hitherto been used, and orders have been issued, which, it is hoped, will produce the desired result. In these orders it has been pointed out to Deputy Commissioners that the fact that garden managers have taken all possible precautions against sickness and mortality on their gardens by adopting sanitary measures which have been recommended is no ground for not appointing a committee to enquire and determine whether the garden, or any portion of it, is or is not fit for the residence of labourers or of any particular class of labourers. If, in spite of all sanitary percautions, a garden continues to be unhealthy year after year, the provisions of Act I of 1882, as recently amended, must be enforced, and the fact must be recognised that the Act cannot be maintained for the benefit of unhealthy gardens. It has also been pointed out that the importation of bad batches of coolies can no longer be accepted as a valid excuse for high mortality, and that managers of gardens must now be held responsible for importing such batches. As has been remarked by the Government of India, if managers permit the continued importation of a class of coolies large numbers of which they are certain to lose, and if such a state of things is allowed to be repeated, and it becomes clear that those in charge of the garden either cannot or will not provide a remedy, the law should be put in force without hesitation, and the garden should be closed to the coolies of the class amongst which the mortality has occurred. District officers will be requested to inform all employers that the Chief Commissioner intends in future to insist on effect being given to these instructions, and at the same time to draw their attention to the provisions of sections 42A and 42B of the Act, as amended, in regard to the medical examination of labourers recruited through the agency of contractors. Further, with reference to the tendency of Inspectors to accept the plea of the occurrence of an epidemic as a sufficient reason for not enforcing the law against the garden concerned, the Chief Commissioner, while fully agreeing that such a plea is in many cases a valid one and that action should not be taken under the Act in cases in which gardens ordinarily healthy are brought on the unhealthy list merely in consequence of the occurrence of an epidemic, is by no means prepared to admit that a plea of this nature should be accepted without examination ; and Deputy Commissioners have accordingly been instructed always to examine the circumstances with especial reference to the question whether the occurrence of an epidemic has been caused by the existence of insanitary conditions on the garden concerned. Lastly, the instructions issued include a direction that committees, when appointed, must, in accordance with the terms of the law, always record a definite finding as to whether the estate concerned, or any portion of it, is or

is not unfit for the residence of labourers generally or of any particular class of labourers. In many cases it has been found impossible to take action on the reports of committees owing to the fact that no distinct finding as regards the above point was placed upon record. The attention of Deputy Commissioners will also be called to the necessity for recording in every case whether the finding of the committee is unanimous with reference to the provisions of section 129A of the amended Act.

In the following paragraphs each district will be taken up separately with reference to the inspection reports of Civil Surgeons, and with especial regard to the statistics in the case of gardens on the unhealthy list, so far as Act labourers are concerned. As regards gardens unhealthy on the Act population during 1892, Deputy Commissioners have in all cases been required to deal separately with each particular garden falling under this category, and to show cause in each case why a committee should not be held under the provisions of the Act. The recommendations made by the district officers have been carefully scrutinized, in the case of the Surma Valley, by the Chief Commissioner, and in that of the Assam Valley both by the Chief Commissioner and by the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, and supplementary action has been taken in every case in which it appeared necessary. The Chief Commissioner has on the present occasion discontinued the system of printing *in extenso* and embodying in the Provincial Report or as an appendix the inspection reports of Civil Surgeons on unhealthy gardens, because those reports are now submitted in great detail according to a prescribed form; and Mr. Ward does not think that the advantages to be gained from their publication in detail would be counterbalanced by the large amount of printing involved, while the selection and publication of isolated passages for this purpose might only create a false impression as to the actual position of affairs on the particular garden concerned. At the same time care will be taken that the reports are in all cases communicated to the managers of the gardens to which they relate. In the case of all gardens unhealthy on the Act population during 1892, on which committees have been ordered, Deputy Commissioners will be required to report their proceedings in the Assam Valley to the Commissioner and in the Surma Valley to the Chief Commissioner, with a view to such further action being taken as may seem to be required in each case. In regard to those gardens unhealthy on the Act population during 1892, the question of holding committees on which has been allowed to lie over pending receipt of the returns of mortality for the first half-year of 1893, or pending further inspection, Deputy Commissioners will similarly be required to report, and care will be taken that committees are held in all cases in which such a step is called for.

Unhealthy gardens in Cachar.

44. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Cachar, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred:

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	1. Kalaincherra ...	110	114	4	13	17	36·3	114·0	150·3
	2. Ballacherra ...	199	204	7	15	22	35·1	73·5	108·6
	3. Dudpatli Bara and Chaltakandi ...	84	100	6	14	20	71·4	140·0	211·4
	4. Indrogram ...	88	101	3	27	30	34·0	267·3	301·3
	5. Arkatipur and two out-gardens	197	167	6	8	14	30·4	47·9	78·3
	6. Dayapur and Ataicherra	120	85	7	11	18	58·3	129·4	187·7
	7. Thailu	171	135	11	9	20	64·3	66·6	130·9
	8. Rosekandi, Rosepur, and Etipur	236	264	14	32	46	59·3	121·2	180·5
	9. Katal and four out-gardens	302	284	10	27	37	33·1	95·0	128·1
	10. Scottpur	137	129	10	12	22	72·9	93·0	165·9
Hailákándi.	11. Lalacherra ...	90	96	1	13	14	11·1	135·4	146·5
	Total	1,734	1,679	79	181	260	45·5	107·8	153·2

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	1. Kalaincherra	4	6	...	1	...	6	17
	2. Ballacherra	...	15	1	...	...	6	22
	3. Dudpatli Bara and Chaltakandi	2	7	2	1	2	6	20
	4. Indrogram	...	15	2	7	...	6	30
	5. Arkatipur and two out-gardens	...	5	3	...	...	6	14
	6. Dayapur and Ataicherra ...	3	6	...	2	...	7	18
	7. Thailu	1	8	3	1	6	1	20
	8. Rosekandi, Rosepur, and Etipur	...	6	...	...	...	40	46
	9. Katal and four out-gardens ...	...	11	2	7	4	13	37
	10. Scottpur	3	3	2	3	...	11	22
Hailákándi	11. Lalacherra	...	3	1	3	...	7	14
	Total	13	85	16	25	12	109	260

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	12. Kasipur ...	1,060	977	38	35	73	35·8	35 8	71·6

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	12. Kasipur	12	9	19	3	...	30	73

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Sub-division.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr.	13. Chandighat and Rangamati	583	626	13	37	50	22·2	59·1	81·3
	14. Tikalpar, Upper and Lower, and Salganga ...	1,269	1,194	48	42	90	37·8	35·1	72 9
	15. Pathicherra and Isacherra .	836	977	34	29	63	40·6	29 6	70 2
	16. Kumbirgram ...	950	923	50	39	89	52·6	42·2	94·8
	17. Bandhu	290	316	11	25	36	37 9	79·1	117·0
	18. Dhubidar, Bhubandhar, and Bhubankhal ...	517	511	13	25	38	25·1	48·9	74·0
Hailá-kándi.	19. Mohanpur	439	437	20	19	39	45·5	43·5	89·0
	20. Nuniakhal	346	321	19	13	32	54·9	40·5	95·4
	Total	5,230	5,305	208	229	437	39·7	43·1	82 8

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Sub-division.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr.	13. Chandighat and Rangamati ...	1	10	2	4	...	33	50
	14. Tikalpar, Upper and Lower, and Salganga ...	41	18	6	7	...	18	90
	15. Pathicherra and Isacherra ...	12	19	6	11	...	15	63
	16. Kumbirgram	42	20	2	6	...	19	89
	17. Bandhu	1	15	13	1	...	6	36
	18. Dhubidar, Bhubandhar, and Bhubankhal ...	3	8	4	3	...	20	38
Hailá-kándi.	19. Mohanpur	13	2	5	2	...	17	39
	20. Nuniakhal	11	6	1	5	...	9	32
	Total	124	98	39	39	...	137	437

As regards the gardens unhealthy on the Act population, the Deputy Commissioner writes :

(1) *Kalaincherra*—Was unhealthy only for second half of last year owing to importations of batches of bad coolies, 13 of whom died in six months. It is otherwise a healthy garden. I have issued orders that all new importations for gardens on the black list are to be taken at once to the Civil Surgeon, and any doubtful cases freely rejected and sent back to their country. This procedure has already resulted in a good many importations having had their agreements cut, and seems to fully meet the circumstances of the case. I do not therefore propose a committee on Kalaincherra.

(2) *Ballacherra.*—The above reasons apply to this garden. The death rate was owing to 22 deaths in second half-year weakly importations of the previous season.

(3) *Dudpatli.*—High death rate due to (1) the usual weakly importations, (2) an outbreak of cholera. This is a healthy garden most years, and does not call for special measures.

(4) *Indrogram.*—Unhealthy owing to 27 deaths in second half-year—the result of importing totally unfit coolies. I think the measures already described are sufficient for this year.

(5) *Arkatipur.*—High death rate due to influenza during second half-year. No special measures seem called for in this garden. Has hitherto been healthy.

(6) *Dayapur.*—High death rate due to small number of Act-I coolies and importation of bad batches. I shall hold a committee on this garden if the death rates for first half-year of 1893 exceed 4 per cent.

(7) *Thailu.*—I shall hold a committee on this garden if the death rate for this half-year exceeds 4 per cent.

(8) *Rosekandi.*—Same remarks as against Dayapur and Thailu.

(9) *Kutal.*—Unhealthy during second half-year owing to bad batches of new arrivals. I think the measures already adopted are sufficient.

(10) *Scottpur.*—Same remarks as for Dayapur.

(11) *Lalacherra.*—Only 1 death in first half-year and 13 in second, due to bad batch of coolies. I shall hold a committee if the first half-yearly returns disclose more than 5 deaths among Act coolies.

As the action which the Deputy Commissioner proposed to take did not appear to be sufficient with reference to the past history of the gardens concerned, the Chief Commissioner, in exercise of the power conferred by section 128A of Act I of 1882, as recently amended, has directed the Deputy Commissioner to hold committees in the case of all gardens unhealthy on the Act population during 1892, which were on the unhealthy list during either of the years 1890 or 1891, and the returns of which for the first half of 1893 show a mortality of more than 4 per cent. amongst Act labourers, the mortality amongst Act labourers having exceeded 7 per cent. during the past twelve months.

45. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Sylhet, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy gardens in Sylhet.

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
North Sylhet ...	1. Malnicherra ...	63	68	3	8	11	47·6	117·6	165·2
South Sylhet ...	2. Luayani ...	156	97	7	9	16	44·8	92·7	137·5
	3. North Bharaura ..	143	134	6	4	10	41·9	29·8	71·7
	4. Lakhaicherra ...	306	266	13	13	26	42·4	48·8	91·2
	5. Kalighat ...	298	221	5	13	18	16·7	58·8	75·5
	6. Satgaon ...	226	222	4	12	16	17·6	54·0	71·6
	7. Dhalai ...	161	172	3	11	14	18·6	63·9	82·5
	8. South Bharaura ..	107	115	5	6	11	46·7	52·1	98·8
	Total ...	1,460	1,295	46	76	122	31·5	58·6	90·1

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
North Sylhet ...	1. Malnicherra ...	...	2	5	4	...	...	11
South Sylhet ...	2. Luayani ...	3	4	...	2	...	7	16
	3. North Bharaura ...	...	2	...	2	...	6	10
	4. Lakhaicherra ...	2	1	...	1	1	21	26
	5. Kalighat ...	2	2	5	1	...	8	18
	6. Satgaon ...	2	5	1	1	...	7	16
	7. Dhalai ...	2	9	2	...	...	1	14
	8. South Bharaura ...	1	2	1	4	...	3	11
	Total ...	12	27	14	15	1	53	122

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
North Sylhet ...	9. Bagcherra ...	314	297	1	37	38	3·1	124·5	127·6
Karimganj ...	10. Bidyanagar ...	491	529	17	22	39	34·6	41·5	76·1
	11. Sonakhira ...	354	364	13	32	45	36·7	87·9	124·6
	12. Lalkhira ...	523	491	26	81	107	49·7	164·9	214·6
Habiganj ...	13. Lalchand ...	878	858	40	28	68	45·5	32·6	78·1
	Total ...	2,560	2,539	97	200	297	37·8	78·7	116·5

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
North Sylhet ...	9. Bagcherra ...	34	...	1	...	...	3	38
Karimganj ...	10. Bidyanagar ...	3	16	5	...	1	14	39
	11. Sonakhira ...	2	12	16	7	...	8	45
	12. Lalkhira ...	...	33	26	2	4	42	107
Habiganj ...	13. Lalchand ...	8	14	2	5	...	39	68
	Total ...	47	75	50	14	5	106	297

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
South Sylhet ...	14. Huglicherra ...	253	432	19	11	30	75·0	25·4	100·4
Karimganj ...	15. Shabajpur ...	517	491	11	25	36	21·2	50·9	72·1
Habiganj ...	16. Amo ...	1,050	1,089	34	51	85	32·3	46·8	79·1
	Total ...	1,820	2,012	64	87	151	35·1	43 2	78·3

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
South Sylhet ...	14. Huglicherra ...	7	1	4	4	1	13	30
Karimganj ...	15. Shabajpur ...	...	11	3	3	...	19	36
Habiganj ...	16. Amo	8	9	21	11	6	30	85
	Total	15	21	28	18	7	62	151

As regards gardens unhealthy on the Act population, the Deputy Commissioner reports as follows :

(1) *North Bharaura.*—Efforts are being made to improve the class of labourers. The sanitary state is good.

(2) *Lakhaicherra.*—The Civil Surgeon's recommendations are being carried out. There is a noticeable diminution in the death rate.

(3) *Kalighat.*—This is a well-managed garden in every respect. The high death rate was due to influenza, which could not be provided against.

(4) *Satgaon.*—The manager is doing his best towards making this garden healthy by removing the lines to a better site and improving the water-supply.

Committees will be held on Malnicherra, Luayani, Dhalai, and South Bharaura, unless there is a marked decrease in the death rate during the current half-year.

The Deputy Commissioner has been directed to hold committees on the Malnicherra, Luayani, Dhalai, and South Bharaura gardens if the returns for the first half-year of 1893 show a mortality of more than 4 per cent. amongst Act labourers. As regards the other unhealthy gardens, instructions have been issued that committees should be held in the case of any of these which were on the unhealthy list during either of the years 1890 or 1891, if the returns for the first half-year of 1893 show a mortality of more than 4 per cent. amongst the Act population.

Unhealthy gardens in Kámrúp.

46. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Kámrúp, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
1. Sonapur	204	213	10	11	21	49·0	51·6	100·6

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
1. Sonapur	11	...	...	...	4	6	21

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
2. Ramsha-Clarence-Rajabari ...	350	294	18	19	37	51·4	64·6	116·0

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
2. Ramsha-Clarence-Rajabari	3	...	14	...	...	20	37

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
3. Kendubam	127	126	3	23	26	23·6	182·5	206·1
4. Bordwar	425	475	7	30	37	16·4	63·1	79·5
5. Mandakata	298	335	16	15	31	53·6	44·7	98·3
6. Chunsali	442	473	29	7	36	65·6	14·8	80·4
7. Chandrapur	208	116	11	6	17	52·8	51·7	104·5
Total	1,500	1,525	66	81	147	44·0	53·1	97·1

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
3. Kendubam	21	...	...	...	3	2	26
4. Bordwar	18	1	1	...	...	17	37
5. Mandakata	11	6	8	...	6	...	31
6. Chunsali	3	3	6	...	1	23	36
7. Chandrapur	...	3	3	1	...	10	17
Total	53	13	18	1	10	52	147

Only one garden was unhealthy on the Act population, *viz.*, Sonapur, in regard to which the Deputy Commissioner writes :

There have been no deaths during the first four months of this year. All the arrangements are described as excellent. The garden was on the unhealthy list owing to epidemic cholera. This does not seem to be a case for committee.

The Deputy Commissioner's view in regard to this garden has been accepted by the Commissioner and appears to the Chief Commissioner to be correct.

47. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Darrang, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy gardens in Darrang.

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Sub division.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	1. Adabari ...	538	477	19	26	45	35·3	54·5	89·8
	2. Bamgaon ...	266	271	14	8	22	52·6	29·5	82·1
	3. Namgaon ...	418	415	26	36	62	62·2	80·9	143·1
	4. Naborani ...	570	618	16	29	45	28·0	46·9	74·9
	5. Kalakusi ...	298	297	5	27	32	16·7	90·9	107·6
	6. Briardolo ...	62	51	12	2	14	193·5	39·2	232·7
	7. Hathibari ...	470	526	21	24	45	44·6	45·6	90·2
	8. Daputa ...	600	654	22	32	54	36·6	48·9	85·5
	9. Dolupadong ...	613	654	31	25	56	48·2	38·2	86·4
	10. Sadharughop ...	257	253	9	15	24	35·0	59·2	94·2
	11. Gellahating ...	224	211	7	12	19	31·2	56·8	88·0
	12. Kotela	312	282	9	12	21	28·8	42·5	71·3
	13. Borgong ...	262	278	7	24	31	26·7	86·3	113·0
	14. Dikorai ...	528	496	16	23	39	30·3	46·3	76·6
	15. Pabhoi	315	266	13	15	28	41·2	56·4	97·6
	16. Kalain	187	227	16	2	18	85·5	8·8	94·3
Mangaldai	17. Gronland ...	206	185	11	4	15	53·4	21·6	75·0
	Total	6,156	6,191	254	316	570	41·2	51·0	92·2

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	1. Adabari	10	17	3	1	4	10	45
	2. Bamgaon	1	7	7	...	3	4	22
	3. Namgaon	2	16	7	...	13	24	62
	4. Nahorani	3	11	11	1	6	13	45
	5. Kalakusi	21	6	3	...	...	2	32
	6. Briardole	9	2	...	...	...	3	14
	7. Hathibari	...	12	16	...	10	7	45
	8. Daputa	18	14	1	2	7	12	54
	9. Dolupadong	7	16	7	...	14	12	56
	10. Sadharughop	4	1	4	1	10	4	24
	11. Gellahating	3	3	...	...	8	5	19
	12. Ketela	4	9	...	...	...	8	21
	13. Borgong	...	8	20	...	...	3	31
	14. Dikorai	8	8	4	2	10	7	39
	15. Pabhoi	1	5	...	...	6	16	28
	16. Kalain	1	3	7	2	5	...	18
Mangaldai	17. Gronland	2	2	8	1	...	2	15
	Total	94	140	98	10	96	132	570

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	18. Tarajuli ...	214	222	12	10	22	56·1	45·0	101·1
	19. Solabari ...	109	128	2	8	10	18·3	62·5	80·8
	20. Hulessar ...	118	121	6	4	10	50·8	33·0	83·8
Mangaldai	21. Rontholi ...	140	137	9	2	11	64·3	14·6	78·9
	Total ...	581	608	29	24	53	49·9	39·4	89·3

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	18. Tarajuli	1	1	4	1	3	12	22
	19. Solabari	...	2	1	...	1	6	10
	20. Hulessar	...	3	3	...	...	4	10
Mangaldai.	21. Routholi	...	1	4	...	...	6	11
	Total	1	7	12	1	4	28	53

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	22. Balipara ...	438	439	19	14	33	43·3	31·8	75·1
	23. Ghoirally ...	397	431	20	23	43	50·3	53·3	103·6
	24. Dhekiajuli ...	473	476	19	67	86	40·1	140·7	180·8
	25. Barpukhuri ...	773	783	35	22	57	45·2	28·1	73·3
	26. Diplonga ...	671	719	19	58	77	28·3	80·6	108·9
	27. Sonajuli ...	1,811	1,979	81	67	148	44·7	33·8	78·5
	28. Dhendai ...	638	716	20	34	54	31·3	47·4	78·7
	29. Belsiri	282	271	37	11	48	131·2	40·6	171·8
	30. Rowta	268	301	18	19	37	67·1	63·1	130·2
Mangaldai.	31. Panbari ...	247	231	29	11	40	117·4	47·6	165·0
	32. Barkala	682	644	51	60	111	74·7	93·1	167·8
	33. Rupital	265	287	24	4	28	90·5	13·9	104·4
	Total	6,945	7,277	372	390	762	53·5	53·5	107·0

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anaemia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	22. Balipara	9	8	5	4	...	7	33
	23. Ghoirally	6	3	7	16	3	8	43
	24. Dhekiajuli	22	21	8	5	2	28	86
	25. Barpukhuri	9	6	16	5	11	10	57
	26. Diplonga	12	12	8	3	25	17	77
	27. Sonajuli	27	30	24	7	37	23	148
	28. Dhendai	8	8	7	5	4	22	54
	29. Belsiri	32	7	1	3	1	4	48
	30. Rowta	...	3	4	8	2	20	37
Mangaldai.	31. Panbari	19	5	7	1	1	7	40
	32. Barkala	62	17	13	10	1	8	111
	33. Rupital	17	1	9	...	...	1	28
	Total	223	121	109	67	87	155	762

The views expressed by the Deputy Commissioner as to the necessity for holding committees on the gardens unhealthy on Act population are reproduced below with marginal remarks by the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts :

(1) *Adabari*—Has been a healthy garden since 1886. The manager is building a new hospital. The site and situation are admirable. I do not think a committee is required.

I have made marginal remarks. Where no remarks occur, I agree with the Deputy Commissioner.—G. G.

(2) *Bamgaon*—Is an excellently managed garden, which has not been on our black list since 1884. It came on the list last year, simply because it was supplied by contractors with coolies unfit for service in Assam.

(3) *Namgaon.*—I think it would be a waste of time to hold a committee on this garden. The manager looks after his coolies very carefully. Water-supply, lines, &c., are all good. The mortality was due chiefly to unpreventible causes.

(4) *Nahorani*—Has the best arrangements for hospital, water-supply, feeding sick coolies, &c., in the whole district. A committee could not possibly suggest any improvements. It is situated in a clearing amidst dense tree jungle, and such gardens are invariably unhealthy for years after they are opened.

(5) *Kalakusi*—Has not been unhealthy since 1882. Its unhealthiness last year was entirely due to cholera. No committee is required.

(6) *Briardole*—Is a small and very healthy garden. It, as well as the surrounding *bastis*, suffered from a very bad outbreak of cholera in the spring of 1892.

(7) *Hathibari*—Adjoins Bamgaon, and is in all respects similar to it. There is absolutely no need to hold a committee.

(8) *Daputa.*—This garden has been unfortunate in its death rate. It was on our black list in 1886, 1887, 1888, and 1890, but it has been importing largely, and the deaths are due, for the most part, to the difficulty North-Western coolies have in becoming acclimatized. I do not think that there is any present need to hold a committee on this garden, but it is one which will have to be watched very carefully.

(8) (9) I think a committee might be held for the benefit of the North-Western Provinces coolies who seem to be doomed to die.
G. G.

(9) *Dolupadong.*—This adjoins Daputa, and the same remarks apply.

(10) *Sadharughop.*—I have already said that it will be necessary to hold a committee on this garden.

I agree.—G. G.

(11) *Gellahating.*—This is the most persistently unhealthy garden in the district. A committee was held on the garden in 1890, but no clue was obtained to the causes of the unhealthiness of the garden. It is a small garden, and it took only 19 deaths to bring it on the black list. I would not recommend a second committee, not, at all events, until I have inspected the garden.

I think a committee should be held.—G. G.

(12) *Ketela.*—This is a very healthy garden. The deaths (17 out of 21) were almost entirely among new coolies. For this the contractors, not the garden, are to blame.

(13) *Borgong.*—This is not an unhealthy garden for acclimatized coolies. It closely resembles Ketela, and the deaths were almost entirely among newly imported coolies.

(14) *Dikorai.*—The same remarks apply ; 21 out of 39 deaths were among newly imported coolies.

(15) *Pabhoi*—Adjoins Dikorai, and is in all respects similar to it.

(16) *Kalain*—Is an out-garden of Nahorani (*q.v.*). It would be a waste of time to hold a committee on this garden.

(17) *Grovland*—A Mangaldai garden. This garden has not been unhealthy since 1884. It is a small garden, and suffered from cholera. There is absolutely no occasion to hold a committee.

The Deputy Commissioner is of course completely wrong in thinking that mortality, if due to the importation of bad batches of new coolies, absolves managers from blame and from liability to committees under the Act ; and the Commissioner has been requested to inform that officer accordingly, and to invite his particular attention to the orders recently issued, to which reference is made in paragraph 43 of this report. As regards the treatment of the gardens unhealthy on the Act population for 1892, the Chief Commissioner thinks that for the present, at all events, it will suffice to act upon the recommendations of the Commissioner, and these have accordingly been approved.

Unhealthy gardens in Nowgong.

48. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Nowgong, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act Population.

	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
1	Siconi	132	122	7	3	10	53·0	24·6	77·6
2	Borghat	103	106	6	4	10	58·3	37·7	96·0
3	Amlokhi	483	518	15	24	39	31·1	46·3	77·4
	Total	718	746	28	31	59	39·1	41·5	80·6

Causes of Deaths (Act).

	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
1	Siconi	1	3	1	...	2	3	10
2	Borghat	4	2	...	...	...	4	10
3	Amlokhi	7	6	3	2	1	20	39
	Total	12	11	4	2	3	27	59

Unhealthy on Non-Act Population.

—	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year	Annual.
4	Sokunbari	526	553	33	23	56	62·7	41·5	104·2
5	Balijuri	195	188	11	6	17	56·4	31·9	88·3
6	Old Salona	171	186	7	8	15	40·9	43·0	83 9
	Total	892	927	51	37	88	57·2	39·9	97·1

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

—	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
4	Sokunbari	3	9	...	...	...	44	56
5	Balijuri	...	3	1	2	...	11	17
6	Old Salona	3	9	...	...	...	3	15
	Total	6	21	1	2	...	58	88

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

—	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
7	Palkhoi	211	208	17	9	26	80·6	43 3	123·9
8	Udmari	378	388	26	9	35	68·8	23·2	92·0
9	Nonai	214	221	5	17	22	23·4	76·9	100·3
10	Rangamati	612	639	17	29	46	27·8	45·4	73·2
11	Killing	419	498	18	26	44	43·0	52·2	95 2
	Total	1,834	1,954	83	90	173	45·2	46·0	91·2

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

—	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
7	Palkhoi	...	...	7	...	2	17	26
8	Udmari	9	4	8	...	2	12	35
9	Nonai	...	6	...	...	...	16	22
10	Rangamati	6	21	...	...	...	19	46
11	Killing	3	12	1	...	...	28	44
	Total	18	43	16	...	4	92	173

The following is the Deputy Commissioner's report in regard to the holding of committees on the gardens unhealthy on Act population, with marginal remarks by the Commissioner :

(1) *Siconi.*—Death rate for 1892 was Act coolies 7·76, non-Act 5·88. This garden was not on the black list for Act coolies in 1890-91, but the death rate for non-Act coolies was 7·69 in 1891. In 1889 it was on the black list with a death rate of 17·91 amongst Act coolies and 6·91 amongst non-Act. The garden suffered considerably from an epidemic of influenza in March 1892. I inspected this garden in company with the Civil Surgeon, and am of opinion that if the suggestions which have been communicated to the manager be carried out, there will be a considerable improvement in its healthiness. I do not recommend a committee unless the mortality for 1893 is over 7 per cent.

As the high death rate was due to a sort of epidemic, I would not hold a committee.

G. G.

(2) *Borghat.*—Death rate in 1892 was Act 9·60, non-Act 2·06. It was healthy last year; unhealthy for Act coolies in 1890, and healthy in 1889. The garden is well cared for, and health conditions good. The mortality appears to have been unavoidable. I do not consider a committee necessary unless there is a high mortality during the current year.

The number of deaths amongst Act coolies was exactly 10, non-Act also 10. As the garden was healthy last year, I would not recommend a committee.

G. G.

(3) *Amlokhi.*—Death rate—Act coolies 7·74, non-Act coolies 3·87. This garden was not on the black list in past two years, but in 1889 had a heavy death rate of 16·5 amongst Act coolies and 5·5 amongst non-Act. The mortality in 1892 was principally due to sickness amongst Ganjami coolies. The class of coolies imported appears to be quite unsuitable, and should no longer be recruited. Various suggestions have been made and communicated to the manager; and should they be speedily carried out, the health of the garden should improve. If, however, the figures for the current year show a death rate of over 7 per cent., a committee should be called on the garden.

It seems necessary to hold a committee for the purpose, at any rate, of declaring the estate unfit for the residence of a particular class of labourers (Ganjamis).

G. G.

The Chief Commissioner considers that it will suffice to adopt the recommendations made by the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, and a committee will accordingly be held on the Amlokhi garden.

49 The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Sibságar, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy gardens in Sibságar.

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision	Name of garden	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	1. Teok	270	315	15	6	21	55·5	19·0	74·5
	2. Domerdalang ...	493	443	20	24	44	40·5	54·1	94·6
	3. Mohkunti	171	150	2	11	13	11·6	73·3	84·9
	4. Athabari	94	110	6	7	13	63·8	63·6	127·4
	5. Diroibari	90	98	4	7	11	44·4	71·1	115·8
	6. Mazenga	678	682	27	36	63	39·8	52·7	92·5
	7. Halwating	286	280	8	19	27	27·9	67·8	95·7
	8. Tiphuk	430	437	18	21	39	41·8	48·0	89·8
Jorhát ...	9. Hatichungi ...	269	262	12	13	25	44·6	49·6	94·2
	10. Cinnamara ...	698	678	34	56	90	48·7	82·5	131·2
	11. Daklangia	239	236	10	11	21	41·8	46·6	88·4
	12. Naginijan	161	164	10	3	13	62·1	18·2	80·3
Golaghát ...	13. Bihora	317	347	14	14	28	44·1	40·3	84·4
	14. Duria	255	282	9	13	22	35·2	46·0	81·2
	15. Mohima	392	347	14	26	40	35·7	74·9	110·6
	Total	4,843	4,831	203	267	470	41·9	55·2	97·1

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision	Name of garden.	Cholera	Dysentery	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia	Other causes	Total
Sadr ...	1. Teok	5	7	1	...	...	8	21
	2. Domerdalang ...	12	11	1	5	...	15	44
	3. Mohkunti		1	2	2	3	5	15
	4. Athabari	1	1	1	1	4	5	13
	5. Diroibari	4	...	3	...	3	1	11
	6. Mazenga	11	1	7	...	6	38	63
	7. Halwating	3	3	3	...	7	11	27
	8. Tiphuk	11	9	7	...	3	9	39
Jorhát ...	9. Hatichungi	2	6	3	...	4	10	25
	10. Cinnamara	9	22	8	...	20	31	90
	11. Daklangia	...	6	2	7	...	6	21
	12. Naginijan	1	2	1	...	1	8	13
Golághát	13. Bihora	2	3	...	1	..	22	28
	14. Duria	...	10	1	...	...	11	22
	15. Mohima	3	5	...	7	...	25	40
	Total	64	87	40	23	51	205	470

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year	Annual.
Sadr ...	16. Napuk ...	254	255	12	15	27	47·2	58·8	106·0
Jorhát ...	17. Holunguri ...	676	692	36	14	50	53·2	20·2	73·4
Golághát ...	18. Letekujan ...	1,199	1,207	49	44	93	40·8	36·4	77·2
	Total ...	2,129	2,154	97	73	170	45·5	33·8	79·3

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	16. Nanik	6	2	5	...	10	4	27
Jorhát ...	17. Holungari	1	...	8	1	1	39	50
Golághát ...	18. Letekujan	8	42	7	2	2	32	93
	Total	15	44	20	3	13	75	170

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	19. Banfera ...	818	567	22	40	62	26·8	70·5	97·3
	20. Jaboka ...	633	805	51	36	87	80·5	44·7	125·2
	21. Taukak ...	857	903	34	28	62	39·6	31·0	70·6
	22. Singlo ...	104	106	7	3	10	67·3	28·3	95·6
	23. Mybella ...	215	204	13	3	16	60·4	14·7	75·1
	24. Bihubar ...	748	849	63	60	123	84·2	70·6	154·8
	25. Maduri ...	332	287	13	30	43	39·1	104·5	143·6
Jorhát ...	26. Dehingapar ...	556	549	37	11	48	66·5	20·0	86·5
	27. Dhekiajuli ...	760	742	18	42	60	23·6	56·6	80·2
	28. Gariahabi ...	355	371	20	12	32	56·3	32·5	88·6
	29. Kheremia ...	184	161	10	3	13	54·3	18·6	72·9
	30. Deering and Halwa ..	258	250	9	12	21	34·8	48·0	82·8
	31. Halmira ...	714	724	23	36	59	32·2	49·7	81·9
	32. Chotojan ...	105	122	6	7	13	57·1	57·3	114·4
	Total ...	6,639	6,640	326	323	649	49·1	48·6	97·7

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	19. Banfera	8	26	1	7	4	16	62
	20. Jaboka	45	4	5	2	18	13	87
	21. Taukak	7	16	6	1	2	30	62
	22. Singlo	1	1	...	...	3	5	10
	23. Mybella	8	1	...	...	2	5	16
	24. Bihubar	58	22	10	3	6	24	123
	25. Maduri	3	11	8	...	8	13	43
Jorhát ...	26. Dehingapar ...	14	3	2	1	1	27	48
	27. Dhekiajuli	1	31	5	5	1	17	60
	28. Gariahabi	2	20	1	1	1	7	32
	29. Kheremia	...	2	...	...	1	10	13
	30. Deering and Halwa ...	2	3	4	1	...	11	21
	31. Halmira	9	27	6	1	...	16	59
	32. Chotojan	2	...	7	...	...	4	13
	Total	160	167	55	22	47	198	649

As regards gardens unhealthy on the Act population, the following is the report of the Deputy Commissioner regarding the necessity for holding committees, with marginal remarks by the Commissioner :

Unhealthy in 1890. Non-Act deaths, I think, not properly reported; probably Act deaths not fully reported. Water-supply defective. I think a committee should be held.—G. G.

(1) *Teok.*—The garden was not unhealthy in 1891. The Civil Surgeon reports that since last inspection new lines have been built, and a *pucca* well has been sunk.

Committee not necessary.—G. G.

(2) *Domerdalang.*—Not unhealthy in 1891. The Civil Surgeon reports that the jungle has been cleared round the new lines, and that the water-supply is now good. I inspected this garden lately. It has not been unhealthy so far this year, and its sanitary condition is satisfactory.

Committee not required.—G. G.

(3) *Mohkunti.*—Not unhealthy in 1891. The Civil Surgeon reported that most of the deaths are those of newly-imported coolies. I inspected this garden lately. It has not been unhealthy this year, and the sanitary arrangements are satisfactory.

No order can be passed in absence of Civil Surgeon's inspection report.—G. G.

(4) *Athabari.*—Not unhealthy in 1891. The Civil Surgeon has not yet inspected this garden. He has been asked to do so as soon as possible.

(5) *Diroibari.*— Ditto ditto ditto.

Death rate hitherto low. Committee not required.—G. G.

(6) *Mazenga.*—Not unhealthy in 1891. The Civil Surgeon reports :—"This garden has always been a healthy one, and for this reason weakly coolies have been sent to it. The coolies are well looked after by the manager, who seems to take a great interest in them."

Just escaped in 1890 and 1891. I do not recommend a committee at present.—G. G.

(7) *Halwating.*—Not unhealthy in 1891. From the Civil Surgeon's report it appears that the houses in the lines have been provided with high plinths, and drains have been cut to make the drainage effective. It appears that the sanitary condition of the garden is not yet quite satisfactory, but until the manager has had an opportunity of carrying out the Civil Surgeon's recommendations, I do not think a committee is necessary.

Escaped in 1890-91. This and Halwating should be watched with reference to mortality of first half of 1893.—G. G.

(8) *Tiphuk.*—Not unhealthy in 1891. Excluding cholera, the Act death rate has been 6·5 per cent. only in 1892. The garden is usually a healthy one, but has suffered from a bad class of coolie lately.

Just escaped in 1890. Committee should be held.—G. G.

(9) *Hatichungi*—Was unhealthy in 1891 on Act and non-Act coolies together. The Civil Surgeon reports :—"The unhealthiness of this garden seems to be due to a bad lot of coolies received in 1891." * * * "The sanitary arrangements are good."

Death rate (non-Act) evidently not properly registered, 0·2 is absurd. Probably death rate (Act) is under the real figure. Certainly a committee should be held.—G. G.

(10) *Cinnamara*—Was unhealthy in 1891 on Act coolies. The Civil Surgeon reports :—"The water-supply and sanitary arrangements are good. * * * The coolies that have been imported are inferior and of poor physique, and the manager ought to have returned them on or immediately after arrival on the garden." This report does not show that the estate is not a fit place for the residence of labourers, and there are therefore no grounds for holding a committee.

Committee not required.—G. G.

(11) *Daklangia.*—Not unhealthy in 1891. It appears that of 21 Act deaths in 1892, 8 were due to influenza, which is not attributable to the unhealthiness of the garden.

Hitherto a healthy garden. Committee not required.—G. G.

(12) *Naginijan.*—Not unhealthy in 1891. Civil Surgeon reports that "the water and sanitary arrangements are very satisfactory."

Should be watched on results of first half of 1893. No committee required at present.

G. G.

(13) *Bihora.*—Not unhealthy on Act coolies in 1891. From the Civil Surgeon's report of his inspection made on the 15th March 1893, it appears that new lines have been built, as recommended by his predecessor in 1892. He adds—"The manager has been unlucky in getting such a bad class of coolies."

Death rate 8·12 (Act), 1890 6·31, 1891 5·49; both pretty high. I would make committee dependent on results of first half of 1893.

G. G.

(14) *Duria.*—Not unhealthy in 1891. Act death rate in 1892 has been a little over 8 per cent. The Civil Surgeon reports :—"The manager is very careful, and does his best to keep surroundings free of dirt." Certain recommendations are made with regard to the latrines, which, I think, the manager should be given an opportunity of carrying out.

The mortality was appalling, and was due to absolute recklessness in importing last year, *i.e.*, 1891. The garden had a mortality of 51·06 (Act). I would make committee dependent on results of first half of 1893.—G. G.

(15) *Mohima.*—Not unhealthy in 1891. The Civil Surgeon's report of his inspection held on the 20th March 1893 shows that the sanitary arrangements on the garden were unsatisfactory, but considerable improvements have been and are being made by the new manager. The Commissioner does not, therefore, consider that it is necessary to hold a committee.

It is clear from the above that the Deputy Commissioner is not sufficiently alive to the necessity for enforcing the provisions of the Act in the case of unhealthy gardens, and his particular attention has been called to the orders recently issued, to which reference is made in paragraph 43 of this report. As regards the treatment of the gardens in the Sibságar district unhealthy on Act population during the year under report, the Chief Commissioner has accepted the recommendations of the Commissioner

as sufficient, and committees will accordingly be held on the Teok, Hatichungi, and Cinnamara gardens. In the case of gardens which the Commissioner considers should be carefully watched, or in regard to which Mr. Godfrey recommends that the holding of committees should be made dependent on the results for the first half-year of 1893, the Chief Commissioner has directed committees to be held in all such cases where the mortality for the first half-year of 1893 exceeds 1 per cent. of the Act population, unless a sufficiently strong case is, in the opinion of the Commissioner, made out for not so doing in any particular instance. Action will be taken accordingly in regard to the Halwating, Tiphuk, Bihora, Duria, and Mohima gardens.

Unhealthy gardens in Lakhimpur

50. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Lakhimpur, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act Population

Subdivision	Name of garden	Mean strength		Deaths			Ratio per mille		
		First half-year	Second half-year	First half-year	Second half-year	Total	First half-year	Second half-year	Annual
Sadr	1 Khanikar ..	96	105	8	4	12	83·3	38·0	121·3
	2 Borbari	162	156	9	3	12	55·5	19·2	74·7
	3 Assam Railway and Trading Company Margherita head-quarter ...	236	303	7	13	20	29·6	42·9	72·5
	4. Hilika	1,159	1,194	28	78	106	24·1	65·3	89·4
	5 Pohukatta ...	123	106	4	6	10	32·5	56·6	89·1
	6 Dikhari ..	128	101	5	10	15	39·0	99·0	138·0
	7 Bahjan (Tengakhat)...	388	410	15	34	49	38·6	82·9	121·5
	8 Mesaijan	519	578	17	27	44	32·7	46·7	79·4
	9 Makum Tea Company	539	698	43	47	90	79·7	67·3	147·0
	10 Chaukidingi ...	119	135	5	10	15	42·0	74·0	116·0
	11 Scalkati .	537	614	25	25	50	46·5	40·7	87·2
North Lakhimpur ..	12 Hulmari	374	368	4	27	31	10·6	73·3	83·9
	Total	4,380	4,768	170	284	454	38·8	59·5	98·3

Causes of Deaths (Act)

Subdivision	Name of garden	Cholera	Dysentery	Fever	Dropsy.	Anæmia	Other causes	Total
Sadr ...	1. Khanikar	.	... .	... .	.....	2	10	12
	2. Borbari	3	1	. ...	... ..	...	8	12
	3 Assam Railway and Trading Company, Margherita head-quarter	13	1	1	.. ..	...	5	20
	4 Hilika	17	57	7	2	8	15	106
	5. Pohukatta	3	3	.....	.....	3	1	10
	6 Dikhari	.....	3	1	.....	10	1	15
	7. Bahjan (Tengakhat) ...	5	12	4	.....	17	11	49
	8. Mesaijan	4	15	4	.....	8	13	44
	9. Makum Tea Company...	25	24	.....	.....	5	36	90
	10. Chaukidingi ...	3	6	.....	.....	1	5	15
	11. Scalkati	8	12	.....	.....	13	17	50
North Lakhimpur ...	12. Hulmari	.....	19	3	.....	2	7	31
	Total	81	153	20	2	69	129	454

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr	13. Titademaru ...	107	102	5	6	11	46·7	58·8	105·5
	14. Dinjan ...	549	555	15	26	41	27·3	46·8	74·1
	15. Bishakupi ...	870	829	29	33	62	33·3	39·8	73·1
North Lakhimpur ...	16. Pathalipam ...	447	483	17	20	37	38·0	41·4	79·4
	Total ...	1,973	1,969	66	85	151	33·4	43·1	76·5

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	13. Titademaru ...	1	2	1	...	3	4	11
	14. Dinjan ...	2	15	8	...	5	11	41
	15. Bishakupi ...	4	14	1	6	2	35	62
North Lakhimpur ...	16. Pathalipam ...	2	10	3	4	5	13	37
	Total ...	9	41	13	10	15	63	151

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr	17. Longsoal... ...	277	318	17	19	36	61·4	59·7	121·1
	18. Assam Railway and Trading Company, Ledo	1,038	1,058	60	92	152	57·8	86·9	144·7
	19. Ditto ditto Tikhak ...	407	384	26	29	55	63·8	75·5	139·3
	20. Hugrijan	1,208	1,209	33	65	98	27·3	53·7	81·0
	21. Kehang	592	622	25	22	47	42·2	35·3	77·5
	22. Phukanbari ...	169	244	4	27	31	23·6	110·6	134·2
	23. Samdang	664	673	24	24	48	36·1	35·6	71·7
	24. Lengrai Division ...	254	334	16	29	45	62·9	86·8	149·7
	Total	4,609	4,842	205	307	512	44·4	63·4	107·8

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	17. Longsoal	2	20	3	2	2	7	36
	18. Assam Railway and Trading Company, Ledo	73	21	.....	.....	5	53	152
	19. Ditto ditto Tikhak ...	13	6	4	.....	.....	32	55
	20. Hugrijan	20	11	3	.....	15	49	98
	21. Kehang	2	8	7	.....	8	22	47
	22. Phukanbari ...	11	8	4	.....	1	7	31
	23. Samdang	10	23	1	1	4	9	48
	24. Lengrai Division ...	7	20	.....	1	7	10	45
	Total	138	117	22	4	42	189	512

As regards gardens unhealthy on the Act population only, the Deputy Commissioner's report with marginal remarks by Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, is given below :

(1) *Khanikar.*—This garden was unhealthy on Act population in 1889-90 and again in 1892. Recommendations made as regards conservancy and hospital have not been carried out. I think a committee should be held.

I agree.—G. G.

(2) *Borbari.*—As the garden appears in the list for the first time, and the rate of mortality is only slightly over 7 per cent. (7·47), I do not consider it necessary to call a committee.

Committee not necessary.—G. G.

(3) *Assam Railway and Trading Company, Margherita.*—The rate is not much over 7 per cent. I think a committee might be held, especially if one is held on the Makum tea estate, when the same committee could deal with both.

Yes.—G. G.

(4) *Hilika.*—This garden adjoins Hukanguri, on which a committee was held in 1891. It is one of the largest gardens in the district ; and in view of the high death rate (8·94), I am of opinion that a committee should be held on it.

Yes.—G. G.

(5) *Pohukatta.*—This is a small garden, and appears on the list for the first time. It will be sufficient if it be inspected again and recommendations enforced.

I agree.—G. G.

(6) *Dikhari.*—A committee should be held on this garden.

I agree.—G. G.

(7) *Balijan (Tengakhat).*—This garden was unhealthy also in 1889-90, and a committee should be held.

Yes.—G. G.

(8) *Mesaijan.*—The rate is not much over 7 per cent. The garden has lately been taken over by the Dumduma Tea Company, and I am assured every effort is being made to reduce the mortality. I do not propose to hold a committee.

It might be allowed another chance.—G. G.

(9) *Makum Tea Estate.*—There has been a very serious outbreak of cholera lately, and the death rate will be still higher this year. The Civil Surgeon is now absent inspecting this garden, and I await his report.

Civil Surgeon's report may be awaited. G. G.

(10) *Chaukidingi.*—This is ordinarily a healthy garden, and I do not propose to hold a committee.

(11) *Sealkati*—Was unhealthy in 1887, 1888, and 1889. This seems to be a case for a committee.

Yes.—G. G.

(12) *Hulmari.*—This garden has a bad record. It has been especially inspected by the Civil Surgeon. It is in North Lakhimpur, and to hold a committee would involve the absence of the Civil Surgeon and myself for a week or ten days from headquarters. I will watch the garden carefully, and inspect it a second time if possible.

I think a committee should be held.—G. G.

The Chief Commissioner has accepted as sufficient the recommendations made by the Commissioner subject to further report in regard to the Makum tea estate, and committees will be held accordingly on the Khanikar, Assam Railway and Trading Company, Margherita, Hilika, Dikhari, Balijan, Sealkati, and Hulmari gardens. The Chief Commissioner has further, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 128A(*b*) of Act I of 1882, as recently amended, directed the Deputy Commissioner to summon committees on the Ledo and Tikhak coal mines of the Assam Railway and Trading Company, where the mortality has been excessive and such as fully to justify and require this step.

CHAPTER VI.

INSPECTION.

Number of gardens submitting returns.

51. The number of gardens shown in the inspection registers decreased, during the year under report, from 872 to 867, and the number submitting returns from 778 to 763. The number of gardens on the registers which employed Act labourers increased from 627 in the previous year to 633; but the number of non-Act gardens decreased, in the case of gardens employing over 50 coolies, from 127 to 110, and in the case of gardens employing less than 50 coolies, from 24 to 21. Managers were again backward in the Cachar district in submitting returns, the last amended return having been received as late as the 17th March 1893, but no prosecutions were undertaken. Great delay also occurred in other districts, with the result that considerable inconvenience was experienced in some cases. Where, as is the case in Cachar and possibly elsewhere also, persistent neglect is shown year after year by managers in supplying by the due date the necessary returns or explanations which may be required in connection therewith, no hesitation should be felt in undertaking prosecutions under the provisions of the Act. For any such result the managers concerned would have only themselves to thank, and the time has clearly come when the laxity, which has hitherto been shown in regard to this matter, should no longer be overlooked in the absence of sufficient explanation.

Classification of gardens according to the coolies employed and inspection of Act and non-Act gardens.

52. The following statement shows the number of gardens, classified district by district, according to the class of coolies employed, the number which submitted returns, and the number visited by inspecting officers:

	Cachar.					Sylhet.					Kámrúp.					Darrang.				
		Non-Act.					Non-Act.					Non-Act.					Non-Act.			
	Employing Act coolies.	Over 50.	Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Over 50.	Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Over 50.	Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Over 50.	Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.
Number of gardens	146	34	..	6	186	72	46	1	..	119	12	6	2	30	50	72	5	3	10	90
" sending returns 50 and	136	34	..	..	180	72	46	..	..	118	12	6	2	..	20	72	5	3	..	80
" 51 inspected once ..	128	28	..	..	156	64	42	..	..	106	5	5	2	..	12	47	3	.	..	50
" " twice ..	13	..	..	..	13	8	4	..	..	12	5	1	..	..	6	17	1	..	..	18
" " thrice ..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	7
" " four times ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total number inspected in 1892	141	28	..	..	169	72	46	..	..	118	10	6	2	..	18	71	4	..	..	75
" " " " *1891*	*119*	*26*	..	..	*145*	*68*	*48*	..	..	*116*	*12*	*5*	*1*	..	*18*	*71*	*5*	..	..	*76*

	Nowgong.					Sibságar.					Lakhimpur.					Total.				
		Non-Act.					Non-Act.					Non-Act.					Non-Act.			
	Employing Act coolies.	Over 50.	Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Over 50.	Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Over 50.	Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Over 50.	Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.
Number of gardens	36	9	3	8	56	170	8	11	34	223	125	2	1	15	143	633	110*	21	103	867
" sending returns 50 and 51	36	9	3	..	48	170	8	11	..	189	125	2	1	..	128	633	110	20	..	763
" inspected once ..	27	8	2	..	37	159	8	..	..	167	122	2	1	..	125	552	96	5	..	653
" " twice ..	9	1	..	..	10	11	..	..	..	11	2	..	..	..	2	65	7	..	..	72
" " thrice ..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	8	..	..	..	8
" " four times ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total number inspected in 1892	36	9	2	..	47	170	8	..	..	178	125	2	1	..	128	625	103	25	103	733
" " " " *1891*	*27*	*15*	..	..	*42*	*164*	*15*	*4*	..	*183*	*129*	*2*	*2*	..	*133*	*590*	*116*	*7*	..	*713*

The above figures show a fairly satisfactory increase in the amount of inspection work performed during the year under report, 733 gardens having been inspected, against 713 in the previous year; but the results were not as good as in 1890, when 748 gardens were inspected. A similar result is shown in regard to the number of gardens inspected twice, which increased from 63 in the previous year to 72. The number of gardens inspected three or four times was 8 and *nil*, against 5 and 3 respectively during 1891.

In Cachar, of 180 gardens liable to inspection, 169 were inspected, leaving a balance of 11 uninspected gardens. Of the uninspected gardens, 5 have since been inspected and the others will be inspected shortly ; but no reason is given why all the gardens liable to inspection were not inspected during the year. In Sylhet all gardens liable to inspection were inspected during the year, and the only garden remaining uninspected was a small garden employing less than 50 non-Act coolies. In regard to the two gardens of those liable to inspection which remained uninspected in Kámrúp, the Deputy Commissioner explains that one passed off the inspection register during the second half of the year, as there were no coolies on the garden. The other uninspected garden was a small and healthy one, and has been inspected since the close of the year. In Darrang two gardens liable to inspection remained uninspected. Of these, one was a newly-opened garden, and the other was a small garden on which no Act labour is employed. In Nowgong all the gardens liable to inspection were duly inspected, and the only garden which remained uninspected was a small one employing less than 50 non-Act coolies. In Sibságar all the gardens liable to inspection were inspected, and only 11 small non-Act gardens employing less than 50 coolies remained uninspected. Similarly, in Lakhimpur all gardens liable to inspection were inspected.

The following figures show the number of gardens inspected by Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, Civil Surgeons, and other inspecting agency :

	Deputy Commissioners.		Assistant Commissioners.		Civil Surgeons.		Other inspecting agency.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar ...	30	36	15	21	49	66	54	59
Sylhet ...	2	16	...	90	12	14	...	9
Kámrúp ...	17	13	...	...	9	11	...	...
Darrang ...	20	27	...	10	...	38	...	24
Nowgong ...	1	24	...	...	24	14	14	9
Sibságar ...	29	47	91	92	27	22	62	28
Lakhimpur ...	41	47	49	52	40	28	33	5

Looking at the results as a whole, the Chief Commissioner is of opinion that the work of inspection was well carried out throughout the province except in the Cachar district, and that a sufficient amount of inspection work was performed in all cases by Deputy Commissioners. In last year's report reference was made to certain proposals which the Chief Commissioner had laid before the Government of India in connection with the future performance of inspection work with the object of relieving the district staff so far as is possible. No orders having been received on these proposals, and as the Chief Commissioner is anxious to introduce them without further delay, the Government of India have recently been again addressed on the subject.

CHAPTER VII.

WORKING OF THE SYSTEM GENERALLY.

Relations between employers and labourers.

53. In spite of two somewhat serious cases in which collisions occurred during the year, the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar reports that the relations between employers and labourers have, on the whole, been satisfactory. One of the cases above referred to, which occurred on the Kalacherra garden, was of a serious type, and the manager to whom, however, no blame seems to attach, had a narrow escape of losing his life. Eight coolies were sent up for trial in connection with this case, all of whom were convicted of rioting, and three were sentenced to six months' and the remainder to four months' rigorous imprisonment. These sentences were upheld on appeal. In Sylhet the Deputy Commissioner reports that the relations between employers and labourers were satisfactory in all subdivisions except in the Sadr subdivision and in Karimganj, where three or four cases of collision occurred. These cases, however, do not call for detailed notice. No special remarks under this head are called for in regard to the Kámrúp, Darrang, and Nowgong districts. The Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar reports as follows :

Under this head I cite the following cases :

Mr. C. O. Walling, manager of the Maduri tea estate, was convicted of wrongful restraint under section 341 and simple assault under section 352, Indian Penal Code, and was sentenced to a week's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100. The complainant was a coolie girl, about fifteen years of age, whose story was as follows :

Walling had previously made indecent overtures to her, and early in September 1891 she was working with two other girls in the bath-room of his house, plastering the wall, when Walling came in from his work about midday, and called her into his bed-room. She refused to go. Walling then

went into the bath-room, and hit her over her shoulders with a cane. He said that he had not wanted her to take her *izzat*, but required her to fan him. She was afterwards detained in the bath-room, in charge of a bearer boy of twelve, when the other girls went away for their midday meal and rest, and in the evening was made over to her mother. For weeks after that she and her mother, who had given information of the illtreatment at the thána, were kept under observation. In December the advances previously made to her were renewed by Walling, who caught hold of her in the garden, and tried to make her go with him to the bungalow. She promised to go later, but ran away to a friend's house, and afterwards appeared before a magistrate, with the result that Walling was prosecuted on charges under sections 323, 342, and 354 of the Indian Penal Code before a jury consisting of three Europeans and two Natives, who convicted him as above.

One Gujana Uraon, a coolié of the Taukak tea estate, laid an information at the Sonari outpost against the manager, Mr. Horrocks, stating that he had severely kicked informant's son, Sanichar, so as to endanger his life. On the head constable proceeding to enquire, Sanichar was found in an apparently moribund condition, but without mark of any external injury. The head constable telegraphed to Sibságar, and I at once deputed Mr. Kemp, Inspector in charge of the District Police, and the hospital assistant, who was then in civil medical charge of the district, to the garden. In the meanwhile, fortunately a European medical man, Dr. Forbes, M.D., was called in by the manager, and he found that Sanichar was suffering from the effects of *dhatura* poisoning. A quantity of *dhatura* leaves was found in his house. He was subsequently brought into Sibságar, and examined by Dr. Manifold, Civil Surgeon, who had arrived in the meanwhile and who confirmed Dr. Forbes' opinion that the man was not suffering from any internal injury caused by violence, and that his symptoms were such as might be produced by *dhatura* poisoning. The complaint was dismissed as false, and Gujana and Sanichar were prosecuted under sections 193 and 211 of the Indian Penal Code before Rai Joges Chandra Chaturji Bahadur, Extra Assistant Commissioner, who convicted them under section 211 of the Indian Penal Code, and sentenced them to one year's rigorous imprisonment. The result of the case showed that Mr. Horrocks had administered a slap to Sanichar for disobeying an order, but that the story of his having kicked him severely so as to cause serious injury was entirely false. It was evident that the serious condition in which Sanichar was found was produced by *dhatura* poisoning, though the Extra Assistant Commissioner was not sure whether the *dhatura* was administered medicinally or deliberately with the object of fabricating false evidence. At any rate, the results which it produced were made use of for the purpose of instituting a grave and unfounded charge.

One Bondu, a non-agreement coolie of the Dhuli garden, wanted to leave the garden and to go to his country. Hearing this, Mr. Congdon, the manager, called him, and told him to give an agreement. He also asked the coolie to give to him the money he had which he (Mr. Congdon) promised to take care of. On Bondu refusing, Mr. Congdon gave him twenty-five stripes over his buttocks. The coolie was then sent to Nagajanka, 8½ or 9 miles distant from Dhuli, and a chaukidár was ordered to sleep with him for fear of his escaping. He was subsequently taken back to Dhuli, where he was kept at night in a house in charge of Mahes chaukidár, being taken out to work in the day time. After he had been kept in this way for a week, on the 13th September he managed to come to Jorhát, and complained to the Assistant Commissioner. Mr. Congdon was prosecuted, and fined by the Assistant Commissioner Rs. 100 under section 323 and Rs. 300 under sections 342 and 109 of the Indian Penal Code. Mahes chaukidár was also prosecuted, and fined Rs. 50 under section 342, Indian Penal Code.

One morning all the male coolies of the Sapakati tea garden went out to do *ticca* hoeing work and the females to pluck leaf. In the afternoon as the women did not come out to work at the proper time, the manager, Munshi Abdul Biswas, ordered the sardárs to make them do hoeing, as the time for leaf-plucking was late. In the afternoon the manager was standing in front of the hospital, when a number of the coolies set upon him and beat him severely, so that he was left unconscious on the floor with bleeding wounds and marks. Three of the accused were rigorously imprisoned for eight months, three for six months, and five for three months each, and all of them were sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 10 each.

On 6th February 1892, Mr. Smith, manager of the Barhalla tea estate, ordered some coolies to take away to the lines a coolie, named Harilas, who was making a disturbance at the time of distributing pay. At this Harilas called out to the other coolies "to seize Mr. Smith." The coolies then threw pieces of broken bricks and dry clay at Mr. Smith and his assistant. Mr. Smith was twice hit with the clods. The accused Harilas and a coolie, named Mohoria, were sentenced to three months' and four other coolies, Lahú, Kali, Phago, and Joynath, to one and a half months' rigorous imprisonment each.

Three Kachari coolies, Melia, Gela, and Aghan, of the Hatikuli garden, with forty others, surrounded the garden muharrir (Iseevar Sarma) and the manager (Mr. Craig), and threatened by gesture to assault them if they would not give them *ticca* work. The three accused were punished with rigorous imprisonment for two weeks each.

Mr. Young Craig, manager of the Hatikuli garden, was fined Rs. 10 under section 352, Indian Penal Code, for assaulting Gopal Rajoár, a coolie of the garden, who kept a cart in which he used to convey goods for the garden. Mr. Craig had been irritated by the man's refusing to work the cart on the plea that the bullocks were ill.

As stated above, the offences of which Mr. Walling was convicted in 1892 were committed in the previous year. With the one exception of Mr. Congdon's case, the year has been happily free from the cases of serious oppression by planters, for which the district had become somewhat conspicuous. This is due to the principal offenders having left the district, and Mr. Congdon has also now left. On the other hand, there have been a good many instances during the year of false and frivolous complaints instituted by coolies against their employers. Mr. Horrocks' case was a very gross one, in which that gentleman narrowly escaped being prosecuted on a false charge of culpable homicide. I think the institution of these cases may reasonably be attributed to the convictions had against certain planters in the district during recent years. In this way the misconduct of a few individuals causes serious injury to the whole planting community.

One device which has been resorted to by coolies of a few gardens in the Sadr subdivision deserves special mention. It is that of coming into the headquarters in a body to the number of 100 or 200 on the pretext of making some complaint. This manœuvre, which it is somewhat difficult to deal with effectually, was adopted in four cases during the year, but in one instance it was justified. In the case in question a large number of the coolies of the Nahorhabi garden came in to complain that they had not received their wages for four months, and this was found to be the fact. The case was specially reported on.

In Lakhimpur the Deputy Commissioner reports that the relations between employers and labourers were generally satisfactory, though some cases of collision occurred between employers and labourers. The more important of these cases are thus described in the district report:

The manager of the Tiphuk tea estate complained that a gang of about thirty Ganjamese of his garden struck work, and left the garden. A chaukidár was sent after them to persuade them to return to the garden. He was beaten by the coolies. After beating the chaukidár and going armed in a riotous manner down to Panitola, these coolies attempted to attack their manager. Five of the ringleaders were prosecuted and punished under sections 143 and 323 with rigorous imprisonment for two months each. Three of the same accused were sentenced to three months' rigorous imprisonment each under section 323, Indian Penal Code, for assaulting the chaukidár above alluded to.

In another case a gang of coolies of the Khobang tea estate assaulted and beat the head and *hazira* muharrirs of the garden, because they got short wages and thought that the muharrirs were responsible. These coolies behaved in a riotous manner; and had not the muharrirs fled, they might have killed them. The evidence for the defence disclosed that the muharrirs were not in the habit of cutting down *haziris* of coolies or illtreating them. The accused, eight in number, were punished, and sentenced to three months' rigorous imprisonment each.

In one case the clerk of the Oaklands garden was beaten on his way from Dibrugarh by six coolies of the garden who were lying in wait for him. No cause was shown, and the accused were sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for three months each. In another case the sardár of a garden was beaten by some six coolies of the garden. In this case also no cause was shown for the assault committed. The accused were rigorously imprisoned for six weeks each.

Four cases under section 352 need only be mentioned. In one of these cases some coolies of the Moran Tea Company left the garden to come to Dibrugarh to complain about hard work and oppression. They had no intention to assault any one; but when the muharrir followed them and tried to induce them to go back to the garden, they assaulted him. He was severely beaten by the coolies. The magistrate thought that the assault was unpremeditated, and that a heavy punishment was not necessary. Nine of the coolies were convicted under section 352, three were imprisoned for five weeks each, and the others were sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 10 each.

In another case the manager of the Makum tea estate met at the Tinsukia railway station a coolie who had deserted and been caught at Jaipur, and who was suspected of having persuaded other coolies to desert. He struck the coolie; and as no justification for the assault was proved, the accused was fined Rs. 30. In another case the clerk of a garden beat a woman, and was fined Rs. 5. In the fourth case an assistant manager in the North Lakhimpur subdivision was assaulted by four coolies of his garden. One of the coolies was ordered to do some work which he refused to do. The assistant then got hold of him, and wanted to lead him to the manager; but the coolie resisted, encircled the assistant, and called out to the other accused for help. They came, and attempted to strike the assistant. The chief accused was imprisoned for three months, and the others were imprisoned for six weeks each under section 500 of the Indian Penal Code. A coolie woman charged the manager of Bokel tea estate with having assaulted her because she refused to visit him for immoral purposes. Her case was dismissed, and the manager prosecuted her for defamation. She was found guilty, and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 15.

Relations between the garden population and the villagers.

54. As a general rule, the relations between the garden population and the natives of the country continued to be quite satisfactory, each deriving considerable benefit from the other. An unusual case occurred in the Sibságar district, the following particulars of which are given by the Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Monahan):

A remarkable case occurred at Mohima in Golághát subdivision, which arose out of a dispute between the owner of the Mohima garden and the neighbouring villagers, who had opposed his application for a waste land lease. A party of the villagers attacked and assaulted Mr. Clark, assistant manager of the garden, and immediately afterwards one of them, Khabar Ahom, laid an information before the police, charging Mihiram, a garden muharrir, with setting fire to his (informant's) house at Mr. Clark's instigation. On enquiry it was found that the charge of arson was entirely false. The villagers who had committed the riot were convicted and sentenced to nine months' rigorous imprisonment, and the man Khabar Ahom was prosecuted under section 211, Indian Penal Code, and, being convicted, was sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 200.

The Deputy Commissioner, however, adds—

Such a case as the above is, however, most unusual, and not at all typical of the relations between planters and ryots, which are generally most satisfactory, much good sense and a spirit of give and take being displayed on both sides. The villagers dislike the neighbourhood of a tea garden, because the manager impounds their cattle when they trespass on the tea, and also because the garden occupies a certain amount of land which would otherwise have been available for fuel and fodder. On the other hand, they appreciate the employment which the garden affords and the contracts which the manager gives out to them for building, roadwork, &c. Similarly, the planter complains that the village cattle damage his tea, but he values the labour which he occasionally gets from the village and the cheap rice it supplies to his coolies.

55. There is nothing new to report under this head, but there is no reason to suppose that the general condition of labourers was in any way less satisfactory than during previous years.

General condition of labourers.

56. The figures given below show the amount of land held direct from Government by immigrants in the various districts of the province:

Settlement of time-expired labourers on the land.

District.	1891. Acres.	1892. Acres.
Cachar	7,365	7,538
Sylhet	1,208	996*
Kámrúp	42	92
Darrang	8,327	10,631
Nowgong	2,069	2,362
Sibságar	11,732	12,306
Lakhimpur	5,724	6,585
Total	36,467	40,510

There was thus a more or less considerable increase in every district except Sylhet; but, as has been pointed out on previous occasions, the figures under this head do not embody complete information. The following remarks made by the Deputy Commissioner of Darrang may be quoted:

The interesting thing about these figures is that the bulk of the land here shown is held in the Tezpur subdivision. In the Mangaldai subdivision only 199 acres are shown as held by time-expired coolies, and there is a reason for this. In that crowded subdivision all the really good land has long ago been taken up by the indigenous population. Here in Tezpur there are still thousands of acres only waiting for the grass jungle to be burned down and the plough to be applied to produce admirable crops. In Tezpur, time-expired coolies paying revenue to Government already occupy about a ninth of the total area cultivated with rice. Besides these there are coolies who cultivate land, held mostly rent-free from their employers.

57. The following table shows the number of time-expired coolies treated in dispensaries, the diseases from which they were suffering when admitted to the dispensary, and the average period of their detention:

Time-expired coolies treated in dispensaries.

District.	Number of time-expired coolies treated in dispensaries.	Nature of diseases.							Number of days treated.	Average period of detention in days.
		Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis*.	Other causes.	Total.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Cachar... ...	229	4	19	44	33	56	73	229	5,121	22·3
Sylhet	241	23	61	31	64	3	59	241	2,385	9·8
Kámrúp ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
Darrang ...	46	4	1	10	5	13	13	46	110	2·4
Nowgong ...	43	1	3	3	7	5	24	43	1,464	33·9
Sibságar ...	123	1	25	11	5	15	66	123	2,727	22·1
Lakhimpur ...	43	...	3	8	7	...	25	43	680	15·8
Total of 1892 ...	725	33	112	107	121	92	260	725	12,487	17·2
„ „ *1891* ...	*505*	*5*	*63*	*94*	*76*	*59*	*208*	*505*	*10,102*	*20·0*

These figures do not call for any particular comment except in so far as they show a largely increasing tendency for time-expired coolies to resort to Government dispensa-

* Of these, 180 acres were held from Government, [illegible] acres from managers of tea gardens, and 378 acres from other landholders.

ries. This was probably due to the peculiarly unhealthy character of the year under report. In many cases also coolies, whose contracts have not expired, are sent to dispensaries for treatment; and in one instance, at all events, the Chief Commissioner, on the occasion of inspecting a dispensary, found that large arrears on account of diet money were due to the dispensary from garden managers. The occurrence of such arrears is not creditable, and Deputy Commissioners will be instructed to see that demands of this sort are punctually paid up by those from whom they are due. It should also be understood that any subscription made by a garden to the dispensary fund ought not to affect the charge for dieting, as medical attendance free of charge is a sufficient consideration for such subscription, and the charge on account of dieting is an entirely separate matter. Figures showing coolies treated in the Tezpur Lunatic Asylum are not included in the above statement, but the Chief Commissioner has had occasion to point out that when coolies still under contract are so treated and are cured and sent back to the gardens, the managers of the gardens concerned should be called upon to pay the diet expenses actually incurred.

Inland Labour Transport Fund.

58. The following table shows the receipts and disbursements of the Inland Labour Transport Fund in Bengal and Assam during the year 1892-93:

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
Heads.	Assam figures.	Bengal figures.	Total.	Heads.	Assam figures.	Bengal figures.	Total.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Medical	.....	.....	.....	Salaries of depôt establishments (including native doctors, hospital assistants, compounders, dressers, clerks, and menials)	8,680 10 4	1,230 5 10	9,911 0 2
Contractors' license fees under section 13	3,148 0 0	650 0 0	3,798 0 0	Supplies and services (including diet of patients, value of medical stores, purchase of country medicines, expenses during the prevalence of epidemics, petty construction and repairs)	8,625 9 4	108 11 6	8,734 4 10
Recruiters' license fees under section 24	.....	400 0 0	400 0 0	Contingent charges	1,754 2 7	299 3 9	2,053 6 4
Registration fees under sections 35 and 68	.....	12,281 8 0	12,281 8 0	Grants to dispensaries.. ..	5,530 0 0	.....	5,530 0 0
Fees for licenses of inland steamers and native boats under section 90	.....	1,378 12 0	1,378 12 0	Inspectors, embarkation agents, and other officers	5,782 6 1	13,131 15 10	18,914 5 11
Rates under section 109 ..	54,975 3 0	.....	54,975 3 0	Clerks and servants	8,453 10 8	4,784 2 3	13,237 12 11
Fees for use of debarkation depôts	2,653 5 9	.....	2,653 5 9	Travelling allowance	5,081 1 0	1,145 10 4	6,226 11 4
Diet, &c., charges recovered ..	2,806 13 0	.....	2,806 13 0	Miscellaneous (including rents, percentage of treasury and audit establishments, refunds, pensions)	3,774 15 10	3,611 9 3	7,386 9 1
Recoveries for sick coolies treated in hospital	410 13 9	.....	410 13 9	Deficit in the Bengal portion of the fund	9,591 5 3*	—9,591 5 3*	.....
Cash recoveries	0 13 6	.....	0 13 6				
Fines and Miscellaneous.. ..	48 3 6	10 1 6	58 5 0				
Total	64,043 4 6	14,720 5 6	78,763 10 0	Total	57,273 13 1	14,720 5 6	71,994 2 7

* In the previous returns this adjustment was made by addition to, and deduction from, the Assam and Bengal figures against the head "Inspectors, embarkation agents, and other officers," and the present classification has been adopted in accordance with recent orders of the Comptroller General with reference to the estimates for the year 189-94.

By order of the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

F. C. DAUKES,

Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

The 11*th July* 1893.

Return showing the Statistics of the Labour Force of the Tea

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Classes of Labourers.	Number remaining at the end of the year.	Additions made during the year 1892.												
		Imported.			Otherwise than by Importation.									
		By contractors.	By garden sardárs.	Free labourers and dependents imported direct.	Number giving contract under section 111.	Number giving contract under section 112.	Received from other gardens.	Recovered after having been struck off as deserters.	Remaining after expiry of contracts.	Otherwise obtained.	Births.	By transfer to adults from minors.	Total added.	Total of columns 2 and 14.
Cachar .. Act-I labourers .. Adults ..	6,871	1,048	2,031	....	925	421	193	54	....	....	....	....	4,672	11,543
Cachar .. Non-Act labourers Adults ..	50,623	....	....	3,220	....	..	710	..	2,814	3,976	....	886	11,606	62,229
Cachar .. Non-Act labourers Children	44,830	....	....	1,162	....	..	266	..	55	1,049	2,547	....	5,079	49,909
Total	102,324	1,048	2,031	4,382	925	421	1,1[illegible]9	54	2,869	5,025	2,547	886	21,357	123,681
Sylhet .. Act-I labourers .. Adults ..	7,732	303	717	....	3,036	2	1,[illegible]2	48	....	....	....	....	4,218	11,950
Sylhet .. Non-Act labourers Adults ..	46,669	....	....	7,175	....	..	1,569	..	3,522	2,814	....	894	16,974	63,643
Sylhet .. Non-Act labourers Children	36,252	....	....	4,260	....	..	670	..	....	505	2,333	....	7,768	44,020
Total	90,653*	303	717	11,435	3,036	2	2,251	48	3,522	3,319	2,333	894	27,960	118,613
Surma Valley .. Act-I labourers .. Adults ..	14,603	1,351	2,748	....	3,961	423	305	102	....	....	....	...	8,890	23,493
Surma Valley .. Non-Act labourers Adults ..	97,292	....	....	10,395	....	..	2,279	..	6,336	6,795	....	1,780	27,580	124,872
Surma Valley .. Non-Act labourers Children	81,082	....	....	5,422	....	..	936	..	55	1,554	4,880	....	12,847	93,929
Total	192,977	1,351	2,748	15,817	3,961	423	3,520	102	6,391	8,344	4,880	1,780	49,317	242,294
Kámrúp .. Act-I labourers .. Adults ..	850	65	275	....	52	1	1	1	....	....	....	....	395	1,245
Kámrúp .. Non-Act labourers Adults ..	1,538	....	....	44	....	..	54	..	42	282	....	9	431	1,969
Kámrúp .. Non-Act labourers Children.	1,223	....	....	213	....	..	20	..	....	18	85	....	336	1,559
Total	3,611	65	275	257	52	1	75	1	42	300	85	9	1,162	4,773
Darrang .. Act-I labourers .. Adults ..	22,331	2,509	2,453	....	4,216	89	134	69	....	....	....	....	9,470	31,801
Darrang .. Non-Act labourers Adults ..	11,027	....	....	386	....	..	117	..	3,460	3,823	....	277	8,063	19,090
Darrang .. Non-Act labourers Children.	13,956	....	....	2,091	....	..	70	..	....	615	1,042	....	3,818	17,774
Total	47,314	2,509	2,453	2,477	4,216	89	321	69	3,460	4,438	1,042	277	21,351	68,665
Nowgong .. Act-I labourers .. Adults ..	3,814	564	602	....	231	15	127	46	....	....	....	....	1,585	5,399
Nowgong .. Non-Act labourers Adults ..	6,770	....	....	507	....	..	127	..	515	742	....	106	1,997	8,767
Nowgong .. Non-Act labourers Children.	5,837	....	....	500	....	..	67	..	....	92	365	....	1,024	6,861
Total	16,421†	564	602	1,007	231	15	321	46	515	834	365	106	4,606	21,027
Sibságar .. Act-I labourers .. Adults ..	37,953	3,422	4,189	....	8,548	289	1,034	153	....	....	....	....	17,635	55,588
Sibságar .. Non-Act labourers Adults ..	21,024	....	...	889	....	..	317	..	6,091	4,352	....	856	12,305	33,329
Sibságar .. Non-Act labourers Children.	37,449	....	....	3,348	....	..	531	..	....	802	2,626	....	7,307	44,756
Total	96,426	3,422	4,189	4,237	8,548	289	1,882	153	6,091	5,154	2,626	856	37,447	133,873
Lakhimpur .. Act-I labourers .. Adults ..	32,088	7,031	3,246	....	4,042	51	505	153	....	....	....	....	15,028	47,116
Lakhimpur .. Non-Act labourers Adults ..	20,495	....	....	1,126	....	..	184	..	5,321	1,713	....	674	9,018	29,513
Lakhimpur .. Non-Act labourers Children.	27,971	....	....	2,674	....	..	177	..	....	280	2,062	....	5,293	33,264
Total	80,554‡	7,031	3,246	3,800	4,042	51	866	153	5,321	2,993	2,062	674	29,339	109,893
Brahmaputra Valley. Act-I labourers .. Adults ..	97,036	13,591	10,765	....	17,089	445	1,801	422	....	....	....	....	44,113	141,149
Brahmaputra Valley. Non-Act labourers Adults ..	60,854	....	....	2,952	....	..	792	..	15,429	10,912	....	1,922	32,014	92,868
Brahmaputra Valley. Non-Act labourers Children.	86,436	....	....	8,826	....	..	865	..	....	1,907	6,180	....	17,778	104,214
Total	244,326	13,591	10,765	11,778	17,089	445	3,465	422	15,429	12,819	6,180	1,922	93,905	338,231
Total for the Province. Act-I labourers .. Adults ..	111,639	14,942	13,513	....	21,050	868	2,106	524	....	....	....	....	53,003	164,642
Total for the Province. Non-Act labourers Adults ..	158,146	....	....	13,347	....	..	2,078	..	21,765	17,702	....	3,702	59,594	217,740
Total for the Province. Non-Act labourers Children.	167,518	....	....	14,248	....	..	1,801	..	55	2,461	11,060	....	30,625	198,143
Grand total	437,303§	14,942	13,513	27,595	21,050	868	6,985	524	21,820	21,163	11,060	3,702	143,222	580,525

* The difference of 110 labourers between this entry and that shown in column 31 of the statement at the end of the Report for 1891 against heading
† The difference of 1 labourer between this and the entry in column 31 of the statement at the end of the Report for 1891 against Nowgong "Total" is due to a wrong
‡ The difference of 3 labourers between this and the entry in column 31 of the statement at the end of the Report for 1891 against Lakhimpur "Total" is due
§ The difference of 108 labourers between this entry and that shown in column 31 of the statement at the end of the Report for 1891 against "Grand total" is due

Gardens in the Province of Assam during the year 1892.

16	17	18		19		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33		34
Deductions made during the year 1892.																			Annual strength.		
		Deaths.		Desertions.																	
Transferred to other gardens.	Left the garden with permission.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	By transfer from minors to adults.	Number giving agreements under section 111.	Number giving agreements under section 112.	Cancelment under section 111, 149, or 177.	Cancelment for permanent unfitness under section 122.	Cancelled under section 129.	Suspended under section 130.	Efflux of time, section 141.	Redemption, section 142.	Number dissolved by mutual consent.	Total deducted.	Number remaining at the end of the year 1892.	Strength on 1st July 1892.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Death rate per mille.
193	....	309	489	396	524	..	....	....	....	37	..	..	2,205	..	3	4,246	7,297	7,538	7,204	7,417	108·7
710	4,045	1,122	881	1,369	1,247	..	494	265	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	10,133	52,056	52,326	51,474	52,211	38·5
266	1,496	614	627	386	668	886	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	4,943	44,966	45,204	45,017	45,085	27·5
1,169	5,541	2,045	1,997	2,151	2,439	886	494	265	....	37	..	..	2,205	..	3	19,322	104,319	105,068	103,696	104,713	38·7
113	....	186	211	357	449	..	....	....	4	103	..	..	3,716	..	17	5,147	6,803	7,121	7,426	6,962	55·3
420	3,079	878	1,118	1,507	1,682	..	1,719	2	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	11,305	51,338	52,193	49,581	51,915	39·2
240	1,421	514	624	586	780	894	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	5,059	38,961	39,069	37,660	39,015	29·4
773	5,100	1,578	1,953	2,450	2,902	894	1,719	2	4	1[illegible]3	..	..	3,719	..	17	21,511	97,102	98,383	94,668	97,892	36·5
306	....	495	700	753	964	..	....	....	4	130	..	..	6,011	..	20	9,393	11,100	11,659	14,630	14,379	82·7
1,130	8,024	2,000	1,999	2,376	2,929	..	2,213	267	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	21,438	103,434	104,819	101,655	104,126	57·0
506	2,917	1,128	1,251	972	1,448	1,780	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	10,002	83,927	84,273	82,677	84,100	28·4
1,942	10,941	3,623	3,950	4,601	5,341	1,780	2,213	267	4	140	..	..	6,011	..	20	40,833	201,461	203,751	198,364	202,606	37·6
3	....	46	64	48	81	..	....	....	....	3	..	..	66	..	..	311	924	1,014	932	974	115·0
30	252	53	46	146	82	..	29	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	638	1,331	1,569	1,553	1,450	65·8
36	153	26	27	45	109	9	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	410	1,149	1,321	1,272	1,235	42·3
69	410	125	137	239	272	9	29	....	....	3	..	..	66		..	1,359	3,414	3,904	3,757	3,659	79·6
134	....	811	869	388	309	..	....	....	7	142	..	..	4,780	1	27	7,468	24,333	24,181	23,236	24,257	79·8
117	3,946	250	203	291	215	..	2,368	59	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	7,442	11,641	12,145	11,536	11,593	88·5
70	1,039	336	282	14	158	277	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	2,176	15,598	15,459	14,707	15,529	40·9
321	4,945	1,397	1,354	693	632	277	2,368	59	7	142	..	..	4,780	1	27	17,093	51,572	51,785	49,549	51,679	54·3
129	....	143	140	106	108	..	....	....	....	100	..	..	534	..	12	1,274	4,125	4,061	3,967	4,063	71·6
75	1,713	213	159	116	116	..	173	14	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	2,580	6,217	7,238	7,014	6,737	49·7
69	302	137	148	43	49	106	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	854	6,037	6,[illegible]50	5,843	6,028	47·7
273	2,015	495	418	265	273	106	173	14	....	100	..	..	534	..	12	4,678	16,349	17,309	16,865	16,829	54·1
1,034	....	1,941	1,121	609	683	..	....	....	....	188	..	..	12,420	6	4	17,106	38,482	39,539	38,746	39,919	55·5
321	6,208	380	278	386	317	..	2,576	1	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	10,467	23,063	22,843	21,331	22,953	29·4
535	1,586	520	642	194	201	856	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	4,534	40,222	39,446	38,447	39,834	29·6
1,890	7,794	1,941	2,041	1,189	1,201	856	2,576	1	....	188	..	..	12,420	6	4	32,107	101,766	101,830	99,128	101,798	39·5
491	....	898	1,179	681	811	..	....	....	2	1,974	..	..	6,396	3	19	11,554	35,562	35,017	33,552	35,289	60·1
253	3,323	358	406	276	186	..	2,658	37	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	7,509	21,914	23,153	21,814	22,323	34·4
137	1,463	*363	565	314	139	674	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	3,655	29,609	29,230	28,630	29,420	31·3
883	4,786	1,619	2,150	1,271	1,136	674	2,658	37	2	1,974	..	..	6,396	3	19	22,898	87,085	87,380	83,997	87,232	43·9
1,731	....	2,941	3,373	1,832	1,992	..	....	....	9	1,507	..	..	24,196	10	62	37,713	103,436	103,752	100,393	103,593	61·7
798	13,442	1,254	1,063	1,215	1,016	..	7,894	111	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	28,703	64,165	66,950	63,901	65,556	35·8
847	4,548	1,332	1,664	610	656	1,922	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	11,629	92,585	91,506	88,969	92,046	33·6
3,436	19,990	5,577	6,100	3,657	3,664	1,922	7,894	111	9	1,507	..	..	24,196	10	62	78,045	260,186	262,208	253,267	261,197	45·2
2,697	....	3,436	4,073	2,385	2,936	..	....	....	13	1,647	..	..	30,207	10	82	47,106	117,536	118,411	115,025	117,973	64·3
1,928	23,466	3,254	3,062	4,091	3,945	..	10,017	878	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	50,141	167,599	171,769	164,957	169,684	37·7
1,353	7,465	2,510	2,915	1,582	2,104	3,702	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	21,631	176,512	175,779	171,645	176,146	31·1
5,978	30,931	9,200	10,050	8,258	9,005	3,702	10,017	878	13	1,647	..	..	30,207	10	82	118,878	461,647	465,959	451,631	463,802	41·9

Sylhet. "Total" is attributed to the revised classification of coolies as well as to the fact that a garden was closed and another employing less than 50 coolies did not submit returns.
entry of one coolie by one manager in the last half-yearly return for 1891.
to the inclusion of revised figures for desertion which were furnished too late by the Deputy Commissioner for incorporation in the last report.
to reasons stated above *, †, and ‡.

ASSAM SECRETARIAT PRINTING OFFICE NO. 146 REV.—300—25-7-93.